United Nations A/71/614*

General Assembly

Distr.: General
15 November 2016

Original: English

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 128
International Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of the Former Yugoslavia since 1991

Letter dated 11 November 2016 from the Secretary-General addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to transmit to you a letter dated 4 November 2016 from Judge Carmel Agius, President and Judge of the Appeals Chamber of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (see annex).

In his letter, Judge Agius requests the extension of the terms of office of seven permanent judges and one ad hoc judge of the Tribunal until 30 November 2017 or until the completion of the cases to which they are or will be assigned, if sooner.

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2256 (2015) of 22 December 2015 and General Assembly resolution 70/227 of 23 December 2015, the current term of office of the judges is set to expire on 31 December 2016. However, according to the trial and appeal schedule enclosed with the letter from Judge Agius, the cases to which the judges are or will be assigned will be completed in November 2017. Therefore, it is necessary to extend the terms of office of the judges so that they may complete the cases.

In addition, Judge Agius requests a further extension of his term of office until 31 December 2017 so that he may continue to perform the functions required of him as President in closing the Tribunal.

It falls to the General Assembly and the Security Council to consider and decide upon these requests. Accordingly, I would be grateful if the present letter and attachment could be circulated as a document of the Assembly, under agenda item 128.

(*Signed*) **BAN** Ki-moon

* Reissued for technical reasons on 23 November 2016; previously issued under the symbol A/71/614-S/2016/959.

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Annex

Letter dated 4 November 2016 from the President of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour of referring to Security Council resolution 2256 (2015) of 22 December 2015, in which the Security Council, inter alia, extended the terms of office of the permanent and ad litem judges of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia until 31 December 2016 or until the completion of the cases to which they are assigned, if sooner.

By the present letter, I wish to bring to your attention the necessity for a final extension of the terms of office of the Tribunal's permanent judges and of an ad hoc judge. The extensions set out below are sought on the basis of and by reference to the attached trial and appeal schedules, which contain projections for the completion of the Tribunal's remaining substantive trial and appeal cases.

Permanent judges

An extension until 30 November 2017 or until the completion of the cases to which they are or will be assigned, if sooner, is sought for the following remaining judges:

Judge Carmel **Agius**, President (Malta)

Judge **Liu** Daqun, Vice-President (China)

Judge Alphons **Orie** (Netherlands)

Judge Fausto **Pocar** (Italy)

Judge Theodor **Meron** (United States of America)

Judge Bakone Justice **Moloto** (South Africa)

Judge Christoph **Flügge** (Germany)

Ad hoc judge

An extension until 30 November 2017 or until the completion of the cases to which he is or will be assigned, if sooner, is also sought for the following judge:

Judge Burton Hall (Bahamas)[1]

President of the International Tribunal

In addition to the above request to extend my term of office to 30 November 2017, which relates to my function as Presiding Judge of the Appeals Chamber, I would request a further extension until 31 December 2017 so that I may continue to

[1] On 21 September 2016, pursuant to article 13 *quinquies* of the Statute of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, the Secretary-General appointed Judge Burton Hall (Bahamas) as an ad hoc judge of the Tribunal for the same duration as the term of office of the judges of the Appeals Chamber.

perform the functions required of me as President in closing the Tribunal in line with the completion strategy.

I would be grateful if you would bring the present letter and its enclosure to the attention of the Security Council for its consideration.

(*Signed*) Carmel **Agius**
President

Enclosure

Status of the trial and appeals schedule of the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia as at 4 November 2016[a]

[a] Contempt matters are not included.

[b] Number of accused/appellants, including the prosecution.

United Nations A/71/615

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Distr.: General
15 November 2016

Original: English

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 157
Financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo

Budget performance of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016

Report of the Secretary-General

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Summary

The total expenditure for the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 has been linked to the Mission's objective through a number of results-based-budgeting frameworks, grouped by components, namely, substantive and support.

During the reporting period, the operations of UNMIK remained relatively stable within its overall objective of advancing regional stability in the western Balkans and ensuring conditions for a peaceful and normal life for all inhabitants of Kosovo.

UNMIK continued to act as an impartial mediator through its status-neutral position; monitor, report on and facilitate the resolution of issues related to the reconciliation of the communities of Kosovo; facilitate the participation of Kosovo in regional and international forums; promote dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina; and provide support functions in the area of rule of law.

UNMIK incurred $39.3 million in expenditures for the reporting period, representing a resource utilization rate of 98.2 per cent (compared with $39.6 million in expenditures for a utilization rate of 92.1 per cent in the 2014/15 period).

The unencumbered balance of $0.7 million was primarily attributable to reduced requirements in the amount of $3.7 million for civilian personnel costs, owing mainly to the lower requirements for international staff and national staff. This was offset in part by the higher-than-planned expenditures for operational costs of $3.1 million, which were mainly attributable to increased requirements for facilities and infrastructure and for other supplies, services and equipment.

Performance of financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars. Budget year is from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.)

			Variance	
Category	*Apportionment*	*Expenditure*	*Amount*	*Percentage*
Military and police personnel	673.2	510.9	162.3	24.1
Civilian personnel	31 908.4	28 199.6	3 708.8	11.6
Operational costs	7 449.4	10 594.3	(3 144.9)	(42.2)
Gross requirements	**40 031.0**	**39 304.8**	**726.2**	**1.8**
Staff assessment income	3 760.8	3 537.8	223.0	5.9
Net requirements	**36 270.2**	**35 766.9**	**503.3**	**1.4**
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	–	–	–	–
Total requirements	**40 031.0**	**39 304.8**	**726.2**	**1.8**

Human resources incumbency performance

Category	*Approved*[a]	*Actual (average)*	*Vacancy rate (percentage)*[b]
Military observers	8	8	–
United Nations police	8	8	–
International staff	116	103	11.2
National staff	229	224	2.2
United Nations Volunteers	27	21	22.2

[a] Represents the highest level of authorized strength.
[b] Based on monthly incumbency and approved monthly strength.

I. Introduction

1. The budget for the maintenance of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 was set out in the report of the Secretary-General of 16 January 2015 (A/69/729) and amounted to $41,442,400 gross ($37,503,900 net). It provided for 8 military observers, 8 police personnel, 115 international staff, 229 national staff, including 23 National Professional Officers, and 27 United Nations Volunteers.

2. In its report of 16 April 2015 (A/69/839/Add.10, para. 34), the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions recommended that the General Assembly appropriate $41,505,200 gross for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016.

3. The General Assembly, by its resolution 69/300, appropriated an amount of $40,031,000 gross ($36,270,200 net) for the maintenance of the Mission for the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016. The total amount has been assessed on Member States.

II. Mandate performance

A. Overall

4. The mandate of UNMIK was established by the Security Council in its resolution 1244 (1999).

5. The Mission is mandated to help the Security Council to achieve an overall objective, namely, to ensure conditions for a peaceful and normal life for all inhabitants of Kosovo and advance regional stability in the western Balkans.

6. Within this overall objective, the Mission has, during the performance report period, contributed to a number of accomplishments by delivering related key outputs, shown in the frameworks below, which are grouped under the substantive and support components, as reflected in the related budget.

7. The present report assesses actual performance against the planned results-based-budgeting frameworks set out in the 2015/16 budget. In particular, the performance report compares the actual indicators of achievement, that is, the extent to which actual progress was made during the period against the expected accomplishments, with the planned indicators of achievement, and the actual completed outputs compared with the planned outputs.

B. Budget implementation

8. On the basis of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and subsequent reports of the Secretary-General to the Council of 12 June and 24 November 2008 (S/2008/354 and S/2008/692), the strategic objective of the Mission remained the facilitation of the consolidation of peace, security and stability in Kosovo and in the western Balkans region. To that end, UNMIK continued to: (a) monitor and report on political, security, social and economic developments and facilitate reconciliation

among the communities of Kosovo; (b) facilitate the participation of Kosovo in regional and international forums; (c) support the European Union-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina on issues of practical concern, including practical implementation of the 19 April 2013 First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations and subsequent agreements, including: (i) the package of agreements of 25 August 2015; (ii) the agreement of July 2011 on civil registration documents; (iii) the memorandum of understanding on the mutual recognition of motor third-party liability insurance; and (iv) the agreement on the integration of the judiciary; (d) undertake timely actions to promote progress on returns, missing persons and cultural heritage; and (e) provide the necessary support in the area of rule of law, including the facilitation of the activities of the European Union Rule of Law Mission in Kosovo (EULEX) and other international partners.

9. Political progress was made between Belgrade and Pristina through the resumption of high-level political dialogue following the formation of the Kosovo coalition government in December 2014 and was advanced by the package of agreements of 25 August 2015 comprising: (a) Association/Community of Serb-majority municipalities in Kosovo: general principles and main elements; (b) Joint action plan on telecommunications; (c) Conclusions on the implementation of the 2013 Energy Agreement; and (d) Freedom of movement on the Mitrovica Bridge. The Mitrovica regional office continued to maintain liaison with local and international stakeholders with a view to reducing tensions and addressing practical issues affecting the multi-ethnic communities in northern Kosovo, including communities north and south of Mitrovica. In order to promote improved intercommunity relations, UNMIK continuously engaged with community representatives and made efforts to improve trust and communication through the facilitation of meetings and joint activities between institutions and civil society organizations from north and south of the Ibar River. In addition, 22 confidence-building measures were implemented. The projects allowed UNMIK to facilitate improved interaction between local communities and governmental institutions such as the police and municipal bodies and were aimed at promoting: (a) inter-municipal and inter-ethnic cooperation; (b) required basic services at the community level to promote cooperation and reconciliation between communities; and (c) economic, social and cultural issues at the local level. The projects were largely implemented in close coordination with the United Nations Kosovo Team.

10. UNMIK also provided operational assistance, including specialist equipment, to rule of law and security institutions in Kosovo and capacity-building support to the Ombudsperson Institution of Kosovo to strengthen the implementation of legislation in line with international standards relating to juvenile justice. These activities and projects were implemented in close cooperation with institutional partners, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), with non-governmental organizations and with the Council of Europe.

11. UNMIK continued to organize weekly regional coordination meetings with the European Union, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Kosovo Force (KFOR), the United Nations Kosovo Team and EULEX to help to

ensure the successful implementation of the 19 April 2013 First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations and subsequent agreements.

12. UNMIK engaged with the relevant authorities in both Belgrade and Pristina to address the concerns of minority communities, including on social and economic issues such as water supply, sewage, transport and employment. UNMIK also visited minority communities across Kosovo to monitor conditions related to security, accessibility of public services, freedom of movement and other related matters.

13. The Mission continued its liaison, facilitation and mediation with stakeholders on the protection of cultural and religious heritage sites. It continued promoting functional relations between the Serbian Orthodox Church and the Kosovo authorities, especially with regard to disputes over construction in the special protective zones.

14. The Mission also continued to promote progress on and solutions to issues related to the return of internally displaced persons, in cooperation with international and local stakeholders. The Mission conducted visits to various return sites and collective centres and shared the information gathered from such visits with relevant stakeholders. UNMIK continued to participate in mechanisms designed to determine the fate of missing persons, as a member of the Pristina delegation in the Working Group on Missing Persons, by collaborating with family associations in Belgrade and Pristina. UNMIK continued to facilitate applications for Kosovo-Serb families of missing persons to obtain financial benefits pursuant to the Kosovo Law on Missing Persons.

15. Furthermore, the Mission continued to support the implementation of the 19 April 2013 Agreement and the package of agreements of 25 August 2015. In that context, the leadership of UNMIK maintained regular contact with officials from Belgrade, Pristina and Mitrovica to discuss issues related to the implementation of the agreements. In addition, UNMIK continued to hold regular meetings with representatives of the European Union, the International Human Rights Working Group, OSCE and other relevant stakeholders. UNMIK supplemented these meetings with analytical non-papers on issues of special relevance, including the Association/Community of Serb-majority municipalities, disputes with regard to property and returns in and around Mitrovica municipality, the integration of former Belgrade-funded civil servants into the Kosovo legal system and disputes over unresolved municipal boundaries. UNMIK also continued to support and facilitate the activities of EULEX in the performance of its rule of law mandate.

16. During the reporting period, the total expenditure was $0.7 million lower than the approved budget, owing primarily to reduced requirements for civilian personnel costs. For international staff, the reduced requirements of $3.0 million were mainly attributable to the lower actual average post adjustment multiplier of 30.7 per cent compared with the budgeted multiplier of 45.1 per cent and to the higher average vacancy rate of 11.2 per cent compared with a budgeted rate of 5 per cent. For national staff, the reduced requirements of $0.6 million were attributable mainly to a lower average actual salary rate for national General Service staff. This was offset in part by the higher-than-planned expenditures for operational costs of $3.1 million, which were mainly attributable to increased requirements for facilities and infrastructure and for other supplies, services and equipment.

C. Mission support initiatives

17. UNMIK realigned its Mission Support Division structure in line with the global field support strategy and the Mission's concept of operations. The Office of the Chief of Administrative Services was restructured as the Office of the Deputy Chief of Mission Support and undertook responsibility for operational coordination and quality control functions in transactional business areas. The Office of the Chief of Technical Support Services was restructured as the Office of the Chief of Supply Chain and Service Delivery and undertook responsibility for both the supply chain and the service delivery functions of the Mission.

18. As a result of the relocation of the Mission's headquarters to a contemporary, energy-efficient facility, including improved building insulation and an improved cooling and liquefied petroleum gas heating system, the Mission realized efficiency gains of $348,400 in operational services costs. This was offset in part by increased rental costs. The Mission also significantly reduced its carbon footprint (by 888,191 kg of carbon dioxide) through a reduction in fuel and electricity consumption. UNMIK reduced its energy consumption by 42 per cent, compared with the actual energy consumption in the 2014-15 period, through the acquisition of energy-efficient electronic equipment and lighting fixtures, adequate maintenance of the Mission's premises and the installation of motion and light sensors.

19. In its aim to mitigate the environmental impact of operational activities, the Mission also implemented accessible points for the collection and disposal of recyclable materials. In addition, the Mission installed one oil-water separator in front of the fuel point in the headquarters premises in Pristina, which reduced the contamination of the water system. The two wastewater treatment plants located at the headquarters in Pristina and the Mitrovica regional office operated in compliance with international and local standards and the policy guidelines of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support.

D. Partnerships and country team coordination

20. OSCE, EULEX and KFOR continued their roles within the framework of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). They regularly exchanged information with UNMIK, in particular on political and security developments, the coordination of activities and the development of common approaches in respect of issues related to the maintenance of peace, the rule of law and stability on the ground.

21. UNMIK continued to facilitate the activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UNOPS and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), in accordance with the memorandum of understanding between UNMIK and the respective organizations. Additionally, the Mission cooperated with the United Nations Kosovo Team in the areas of situational analysis, planning and joint strategy implementation. UNMIK continued to work with the United Nations Kosovo Team to develop a new integrated assessment strategy to replace the 2012-2014 strategic framework, which expired in December 2014. The Mission held a retreat from 3 to 5 June 2016 at which it comprehensively reviewed its activities and identified strategic priorities

and a road map for recalibration, taking into clear account the real challenges and constraints. UNMIK and the United Nations Kosovo Team undertook action to revise the main planning processes accordingly, including the Integrated Strategic Framework. In the interim, UNMIK and the United Nations Kosovo Team continued to work jointly towards the objectives of the common development plan and strategic framework, given that they remained relevant.

E. Results-based-budgeting frameworks

Component 1: substantive

22. During the reporting period, the Mission's substantive component focused on advancing the reconciliation and integration of all communities in Kosovo, especially in the northern municipalities. It monitored and reported on political, security and community developments that affected inter-ethnic relations and stability in Kosovo and the region. UNMIK, in close coordination with other international actors in Kosovo, continued to support the European Union-facilitated dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina, the implementation of the 19 April 2013 First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations and the package of agreements of August 2015.

23. UNMIK facilitated and encouraged contact between Kosovo-Serb and Kosovo-Albanian communities north and south of the Ibar River, as well as among the municipalities in northern Kosovo, KFOR and EULEX. It continued to facilitate contact between the communities in northern Kosovo to ensure the equitable provision of public services to all communities. UNMIK also maintained liaison with officials in Belgrade and Pristina and other international actors in support of conflict prevention and resolution and to foster a common understanding of and approaches to the situation on the ground.

Expected accomplishment 1.1: Progress towards reconciliation and integration of all communities in Kosovo

Planned indicators of achievement	*Actual indicators of achievement*
1.1.1 Decrease in the number of incidents affecting non-majority communities (2013/14: 359; 2014/15: 503; 2015/16: 430)	There were 468 incidents affecting non-majority communities. The higher-than-anticipated number of reported incidents was mainly due to improved cooperation with other international partners regarding data collection and analysis. The number of reported incidents decreased compared with the previous year (503 incidents were reported for the 2014/15 period)
1.1.2 Increase in the number of cases filed by Kosovo-Serb individuals to the Kosovo judiciary (2013/14: 0; 2014/15: 10; 2015/16: 12)	There were no data available from the Kosovo Judicial Council pending the integration of the Kosovo-Serb judiciary as part of the implementation of a Europe Union-facilitated agreement

Planned outputs	Completed (number or yes/no)	Remarks
Resolution, through facilitation and daily meetings with local and central authorities, civil society and key mandate holders, of issues affecting communities, returns and cultural heritage throughout Kosovo	Yes	Meetings were held with local and central authorities, civil society and key stakeholders to resolve issues affecting communities, returns and cultural heritage throughout Kosovo. Through facilitation, practical issues affecting non-majority communities, including access to public services and the returns process, were resolved. As a result, relevant municipalities took actions to address community-related matters, including the potable water problem in Hoçë e Madhe/Velika Hoča village, located in Rahovec/Orahovac municipality, and the municipal leaders in Pejë/Peć took measures to address an illegal construction within the special protective zone in the vicinity of the Patriarchate
Verification of the actual number of returnees, their living and security conditions, through quarterly visits, in 25 identified return sites/villages, and of displaced persons in 10 identified collective centres	25	Return sites/villages were visited to verify the number of returnees, their living conditions and the prevailing security situation. During the reporting period, the total number of returnees verified was 1,103 individuals in 367 families. Access to public services was reported to be available; however, difficulties in accessing schools were reported in 13 villages. Acts of vandalism were reported to be the main security issue
	10	UNMIK visited collective centres, at which 141 internally displaced families, comprising 279 individuals, were verified as present at the end of the period
Participation in weekly meetings with EULEX and KFOR on political and security developments in the north of Kosovo, and daily briefings with municipal officials of the northern municipalities on issues related to reconciliation and cooperation among all communities	304	Weekly meetings with EULEX and KFOR in northern Kosovo were chaired or otherwise attended by UNMIK. The meetings focused on political and security developments within northern Kosovo. The Mission's regional office in Mitrovica, through its municipal offices and regional units, held 87 briefings with municipal officials of the northern municipalities on issues related to reconciliation and cooperation among all communities, and 255 daily meetings were held with KFOR
Co-chairing of monthly meetings on human rights of the International Contact Group with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Kosovo and participation in monthly meetings of its subgroups, along with various international/regional actors, focusing on security incidents affecting non-majority communities and property rights	No	The Human Rights International Contact Group was discontinued and replaced by the International Human Rights Working Group, which is chaired by UNMIK. The International Human Rights Working Group held four meetings focused on the provision of support to the Kosovo Ombudsperson Institution and made concrete suggestions to be provided to the Office of Good Governance for the drafting of the Kosovo human rights strategy (2016-2020). The Working Group also engaged with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on issues related to missing persons

Preparation and submission of at least 3 responses to United Nations and European human rights bodies whenever required to do so, including review and revision of inputs provided by the Kosovo authorities, the United Nations Kosovo Team, OSCE and other stakeholders	3	Reports, in the form of responses to European and United Nations human rights mechanisms, were prepared and submitted in coordination with relevant partners to: (a) the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances; (b) the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living; and (c) the European Committee for the Prevention of Torture of the Council of Europe
Processing of approximately 40 outstanding cases and any residual matters pending before the Human Rights Advisory Panel, including the Panel's final report and the archiving and final disposition of all files pertaining to 527 complaints in order to finalize the Panel's mandate	56	Cases were processed, including the issuance of 21 opinions on merits concerning those cases, thus closing all the outstanding cases pending before the Human Rights Advisory Panel. The Panel also issued its final report. UNMIK submitted 35 responses to the Panel, comprising 6 comments on merits and 29 decisions of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General
Facilitation of the provision of civil registration services to the Kosovo-Serb communities by the Kosovo authorities through quarterly meetings with the Kosovo authorities and EULEX to ensure continuous action on cases involving minority communities	4	Quarterly meetings were held with the Ministry of Internal Affairs and EULEX to discuss issues pertaining to the Kosovo-Serb community. UNMIK facilitated the provision of civil registration books from the Kosovo authorities to the Kosovo-Serb municipal authorities
Advice through 6 meetings of the Security and Gender Group and 6 meetings of its subgroup on gender-based violence with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), UNDP, OSCE, EULEX, the Kosovo authorities and civil society organizations to promote gender mainstreaming	9	Meetings were held, including 3 meetings of the Security and Gender Group and 6 meetings of the subgroup on gender-based violence. UNMIK also attended other forums through which the members of the Security and Gender Group met regularly, including 2 meetings of the United Nations Gender Theme Group
Quarterly reports to the Security Council covering all relevant developments in Kosovo	4	Reports were prepared for the Security Council, covering all relevant developments in Kosovo, in coordination with the United Nations Kosovo Team and EULEX
Implementation of 20 confidence-building projects	22	Confidence-building projects were implemented throughout Kosovo to promote cooperation and build confidence and reconciliation between communities. The projects pertained to, inter alia, youth integration and interaction, culture and gender, with interreligious and inter-ethnic dialogue being a cross-cutting theme. Owing to the lower-than-planned implementation costs for some of these projects, it was possible to implement 2 additional projects

Media products and news updates aimed at informing on and promoting awareness of developments and issues including freedom of movement, the right to return, the protection of minority communities, political developments and processes, intercommunity dialogue, peacebuilding, security issues and human rights, including 10 press releases, statements, and interviews with the media on key activities of the Mission; radio programmes in Albanian, Serbian and English in cooperation with the United Nations Kosovo Team, to highlight United Nations messages and activities in Kosovo, to be disseminated locally via the UNMIK radio network (Ophelia FM) 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and globally via United Nations Radio; transmission of daily news bulletins in partnership with Radio Free Europe and Deutsche Welle in addition to United Nations programming, via Ophelia FM; and media monitoring reports 6 days a week as well as regular web and social media updates, photo coverage and contacts with the media	Yes	UNMIK issued 50 news updates, 13 press releases, 1 interview with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and various ad hoc media queries on UNMIK activities in support of minority communities, inter-ethnic relations, including the introductory meeting of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General with Kosovo officials and Mitrovica municipal representatives, and meetings with government representatives in Belgrade. UNMIK also produced 7 radio programmes, each of which were broadcast in Albanian, English and Serbian. Topics included the protection of minority communities, peacebuilding and human rights. Ophelia FM broadcast 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, transmitting daily news bulletins in Albanian, English and Serbian in partnership with Radio Free Europe and Deutsche Welle. In addition, UNMIK continued to monitor media reports 6 days a week. The Mission's Internet website and social media channels were updated on a regular basis with stories of the Mission's outreach activities, including photographic coverage

Expected accomplishment 1.2: Progress with respect to Pristina's cooperation and dialogue with Belgrade and regional organizations

Planned indicators of achievement	*Actual indicators of achievement*
1.2.1 Increase in the number of Kosovo-Serb public servants, including police and judicial officers, transitioned from parallel institutions to the Kosovo institutions in accordance with political agreements reached (2013/14: 280; 2014/15: 373; 2015/16: 400)	Achieved. A total of 443 former members of the civil protection corps were integrated into the Kosovo institutions in accordance with the framework established by the European Union-facilitated dialogue, in particular the First Agreement of Principles Governing the Normalization of Relations of 19 April 2013. In addition, 32 former administrative staff members of the Ministry of the Interior of Serbia were integrated into Kosovo institutions
1.2.2 Increase in the total number of elected and appointed Kosovo-Serb officials in the Kosovo authorities at the central and local levels (2013/14: 130; 2014/15: 150; 2015/16: 160)	During the reporting period, 1 Kosovo-Serb was appointed to the position of Deputy Mayor in Zvečan/Zveçan municipality in September 2015 and 1 Kosovo-Serb was appointed as Municipal Officer for Gender Equality in Leposavić/Leposaviq municipality in June 2016

Planned outputs	Completed (number or yes/no)	Remarks
Advice and support provided to the process of the European Union-facilitated political and technical dialogue and agreements between Belgrade and Pristina, including assistance to meetings through the sharing of the Mission's institutional memory and expertise	Yes	UNMIK provided advice and support to the process of the European Union-facilitated dialogue through: (a) 74 meetings with the diplomatic corps in Pristina, Belgrade, New York and Washington, D.C.; (b) 107 meetings with United Nations agencies and other stakeholders; and (c) 10 meetings with the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and KFOR
Advice on all mandated issues through 50 high-level meetings between UNMIK senior leadership and Pristina and Belgrade officials	23	High-level meetings were held between UNMIK senior leadership and officials in Pristina and Belgrade. Thirteen high-level meetings were held in Pristina, while 10 meetings were held with senior officials in Belgrade. These meetings provided an opportunity to exchange information and to convey views and advice on issues affecting peace and stability and the promotion of human rights. In addition, during meetings with participants in the European Union-facilitated dialogue, UNMIK provided advice on possible solutions to issues discussed within the context of the dialogue, both at the political level and in the technical working groups
Facilitation through participation in meetings or through other modes of intervention on an estimated 13 different occasions in relation to (i) decision-making processes within the multilateral agreements signed by UNMIK on behalf of Kosovo, such as the Central European Free Trade Agreement, the Energy Community Treaty, the core regional transport network (the South-East European Transport Observatory) and the European Common Aviation Area; (ii) participation of the Kosovo institutions in international forums/meetings not covered by the European Union-led dialogue arrangement on regional representation and cooperation; and (iii) participation of the Kosovo institutions in regional forums/meetings not covered by the "Arrangements Regarding Regional Representation and Cooperation" agreed in the framework of the European Union-facilitated dialogue	Yes	UNMIK facilitated the participation of Kosovo in international forums on 36 occasions, including through cooperation with United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, including the United Nations Population Fund, UNDP, UN-Women and UNOPS, by attending meetings together with representatives of the Kosovo institutions or by other interventions such as letters of endorsement or support for technical assistance programmes of FAO, UNICEF, UNESCO and the World Meteorological Organization UNMIK attended 5 meetings related to decision-making processes within the international multilateral agreements signed by UNMIK on behalf of Kosovo, including: (a) 2 meetings on the Selection Committee for the Recruitment of a Director for the Central European Free Trade Agreement Secretariat, held in Belgium; (b) 1 meeting on the fifth International Cooperation Forum organized by the European Aviation Safety Agency held in Hong Kong, China; (c) 1 meeting on the Central European Free Trade Agreement Joint Committee held in the Republic of Moldova; and (d) 1 meeting on the Central European Free Trade Agreement Special Joint Committee held in Montenegro. UNMIK also facilitated the participation of Kosovo institutions in 31 other regional and international forums and meetings

Facilitation of dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina on missing persons, including through participation in ad hoc meetings of the Working Group on Missing Persons and weekly liaison with the Kosovo Commission on Missing Persons, the Serbian Government Commission on Missing Persons and ICRC	Yes	UNMIK participated in 4 ad hoc meetings of the working group of the Kosovo Commission on Missing Persons, 13 weekly liaison meetings with the Kosovo Commission on Missing Persons and the Serbian Government Commission on Missing Persons and 8 regular meetings with Kosovo-Albanian and Kosovo-Serb associations of the families of missing persons and held 5 meetings with international organizations on issues relating to missing persons UNMIK also facilitated the participation of the Kosovo Commission on Missing Persons in the Human Rights Council session in Geneva and participated in the 42nd public meeting of the Working Group on Missing Persons in Belgrade, as a member of the Pristina delegation In addition, UNMIK participated in the annual retreat on missing persons organized by ICRC in Montenegro and in 2 trips to Serbia for a site assessment and for a presentation, at which the Working Group on Missing Persons was also present
Processing and preparing of documentation and legal instruments in relation to requests received for mutual legal assistance pursuant to applicable international and local law and bilateral agreements with other Governments received from the Kosovo authorities, Member States that do not recognize Kosovo as an independent State and or EULEX	Yes	UNMIK received and processed 9 requests for mutual legal assistance from Serbia and issued 53 international wanted notices. The agreement of 12 August 2011 between EULEX and Serbia addresses the issue of requests for mutual legal assistance. However, despite the existence of this agreement, UNMIK continues to receive sporadic requests from Serbian courts that are not familiar with the agreement
Preparation and conclusion of an estimated 3 agreements between UNMIK and KFOR contingents regarding the handover of KFOR premises/camps that are socially or publicly owned property	0	Handover agreements between UNMIK and KFOR were concluded during the reporting period, although UNMIK held 10 meetings with KFOR legal advisers in relation to anticipated camp handovers. UNMIK is still waiting for KFOR to advise on the possible date of conclusion of handover agreements
Attending an estimated 5 court hearings and responding to an estimated 20 submissions, relating to claims and cases stemming from activities involving the Kosovo Trust Agency received from the Special Chamber and municipal courts during the budget period	5	Submissions were received by UNMIK from the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court of Kosovo on matters related to the Kosovo Trust Agency
	2	Submissions to the Special Chamber of the Supreme Court of Kosovo on matters related to the Kosovo Trust Agency. UNMIK was not summoned by the Special Chamber to attend any court hearings

Processing of an estimated 1,200 requests from Kosovo residents, countries not recognizing Kosovo as an independent State and liaison offices for the authentication and certification by UNMIK of, inter alia, Kosovo civil status documentation, pension certificates and academic documents which need to be used in countries that do not recognize Kosovo as an independent State	1,950	Requests from Kosovo habitual residents relating to civil status documentation, pension certificates and academic documents were certified. Following the decision by the European Court of Human Rights in the case of *Grudić v. Serbia* in September 2012 granting Serbian pensions to 2 former Kosovo residents whose State disability pensions were suspended by the Serbian authorities in 1999, UNMIK has experienced a surge in individual requests for certification of pension-related documents from habitual residents of Kosovo
Processing and preparing documentation in accordance with applicable law in relation to requests received for the issuance of international wanted notices, also known as International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) Red Notices, and processing and referral of an estimated 1,500 INTERPOL cases (international crime and automobile theft) for investigation by the relevant actors in Kosovo	38	INTERPOL Red Notices were issued and 2,423 cases were processed. As a result of extradition requests made by INTERPOL member states, UNMIK facilitated 2 extraditions from Kosovo to Belgium. In addition, UNMIK facilitated 15 extraditions from foreign countries to Kosovo

Component 2: support

24. The Mission continued to successfully provide effective and efficient logistical, administrative, technical and security services in support of the implementation of its mandate through the delivery of related outputs. Support was provided to the Mission's average strength of eight military liaison officers and eight United Nations police officers and the civilian staffing establishment of 103 international and 224 national staff and 21 United Nations Volunteers.

25. The main priorities during the reporting period were improvements in property management and information technology service delivery, such as the integration of centralized applications with the Global Service Centre and the successful implementation of Umoja Extension 1 for cluster 4.

26. The efficiency initiatives planned in the 2015/16 budget were implemented. The relocation of the main headquarters to the new premises resulted in significant reductions in facility operations and utility consumption costs.

Expected accomplishment 2.1: Increased efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery, supply chain management, administrative and security support to the Mission

Planned indicators of achievement	*Actual indicators of achievement*
2.1.1 Improved property management through (a) accurate and reliable financial reporting on assets; (b) 100 per cent physical verification of assets and conduct of impairment review by the end of December 2015; (c) 100 per cent discrepancy reconciliation of non-expendable property records; (d) an efficient and effective framework for write-off and disposal process; a maximum of 10 per cent write-off process longer than 12 months and time frame of 42 days or less for case processing	Achieved. Property management improved through: (a) Accurate and reliable financial reporting on assets; (b) 100 per cent physical verification of assets and impairment review as at 31 March 2016; (c) 100 per cent reconciliation of non-expendable property records; (d) Zero per cent write-off processes longer than 12 months and a time frame of less than 42 days for case processing
2.1.2 Progress on Umoja implementation	Achieved. Umoja Extension 1 for cluster 4 was successfully implemented on 9 November 2015. Preparations for the implementation of cluster 5 commenced in February 2016
2.1.3 Improvement in information and communications technology service delivery, including reduction in upgrade update time of software and improvement in security of the network and integration of centralized applications with the Global Service Centre	Achieved. Improvements were made in the delivery of services, including but not limited to faster and better response time through Internet link upgrade, reduction of time and or zero tolerance on service downtime during upgrades or maintenance of different services, and integration of services that are hosted in the Global Service Centre

Planned outputs	*Completed (number or yes/no)*	*Remarks*
Service improvements		
Support for the second phase of Umoja implementation, including the integration of human resources functionalities	Yes	UNMIK provided support, including through: (a) Resource mobilization, local deployment and identification of teams comprising local process experts, data cleansing experts and collectors, data validators, communication focal points, administration focal points, training coordinators, service desk focal points and technical focal points; (b) Provision of one mission as-is operating model analysis to the Umoja project team in February 2016; (c) Successful execution of data preparation activities, including data cleansing, manual data collection, mock cycles and local configuration surveys;

		(d) Conducting: (i) user access mapping of international staff; (ii) training sessions for all Umoja Extension 1 users, including mapping training participants to courses, local process expert training, completion of computer-based training and travel instruction-led training; and (iii) web-based training sessions for transactional users, including in modules such as human resources, travel and finance;
		(e) Continuous training of tier 1 focal points in preparation for the implementation of Umoja cluster 5 requirements;
		(f) Change management and communications initiatives to promote staff awareness of Umoja Extension 1 implementation through: (i) town hall meetings; (ii) broadcast of the Umoja website and Umoja on iSeek; and (iii) regular updates for staff on Umoja-related activities in preparation for implementation
Centralization of e-mail services through the Global Service Centre	Yes	UNMIK completed the centralization of e-mail services through the Global Service Centre, including migration of e-mail accounts and other associated services by 30 June 2016
Integration of centralized applications with the Global Service Centre	Yes	140 Lotus Notes databases were identified in the production environment and reduced to 47 as a result of the integration process. The remaining 47 Lotus Notes databases will be integrated into various centralized applications, with the help of the Global Service Centre, by 30 June 2017
Military, police and civilian personnel		
Emplacement, rotation and repatriation of an average strength of 8 military observers and 8 United Nations police officers		Emplacement, rotation and repatriation of an average of:
	8	Military liaison officers
	8	United Nations police officers
Administration of an average of 371 civilian staff, comprising 115 international staff, 229 national staff and 27 United Nations Volunteers		Administrative services were provided to an average of:
	348	Civilian personnel comprising:
	103	International staff
	224	National staff
	21	United Nations Volunteers

Facilities and infrastructure		
Maintenance of 5 civilian staff premises and 8 repeater sites	Yes	UNMIK maintained 6 civilian staff premises and 9 repeater sites. The increased number was due to the leased residence of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and 1 additional repeater site established in Berisha Hill to meet operational requirements
Operation and maintenance of 2 United Nations-owned sewage treatment plants in 2 locations	Yes	UNMIK operated and maintained 2 United Nations-owned sewage treatment plants in 2 locations
Operation and maintenance of 10 United Nations-owned generators in 9 locations	Yes	UNMIK operated and maintained 10 United Nations-owned generators in 9 locations
Storage and supply of 113,555 litres of petrol, oil and lubricants for generators and heating units	92,713	Litres of diesel and petrol, oil and lubricants for generators and heating units were supplied. The reduced consumption was due to stable electricity distribution from the local provider and improved building insulation at the new headquarters in Pristina
Ground transportation		
Operation and maintenance of 103 United Nations-owned vehicles consisting of 71 light passenger vehicles, 18 special purpose vehicles, 2 ambulances, 6 armoured vehicles, 2 mobile engineering vehicles and 4 mobile material handling vehicles	107	United Nations-owned vehicles were operated and maintained, consisting of:
	69	Light passenger vehicles, due to the write-off of 2 more light passenger vehicles than planned
	20	Special purpose vehicles. An additional 2 special purpose vehicles were earmarked to be transferred to other missions in the 2016/17 period
	2	Ambulances
	10	Armoured vehicles, including 4 armoured vehicles earmarked to be transferred to other missions in the 2016/17 period
	2	Mobile engineering vehicles
	4	Mobile material handling vehicles
Supply of 139,668 litres of petrol, oil and lubricants for ground transportation vehicles	131,713	Litres of petrol, oil and lubricants for ground transportation vehicles were supplied. The reduced consumption of fuel was due to: (a) reduced usage of light vehicles; (b) reduced requirements for heavy vehicle services; and (c) restrictions on unjustified or excessive idling time

Communications

Support and maintenance of a satellite network consisting of 1 Earth station hub and 3 very small aperture terminals, 7 telephone exchanges, 26 microwave links, 7 videoconferencing systems, 36 very-high-frequency repeaters, and 5 ultra-high frequency repeaters		The following communication equipment was supported and maintained:
	1	Earth station hub
	3	Very small aperture terminals
	7	Telephone exchanges
	26	Microwave links
	7	Videoconferencing systems
	34	Very-high-frequency repeaters. The lower number of repeaters was due to reconfiguration of the VHF network from analog to digital. As a result, 2 repeaters became obsolete and were therefore written off
	4	Ultra-high-frequency repeaters. The variance was due to reconfiguration of the UHF network from analog to digital. As a result, 1 repeater become obsolete and was therefore written off
Support and maintenance of 4 FM radio broadcast stations and 1 radio production facility	4	FM radio broadcast stations and a production studio were maintained and supported

Information technology

Support and maintenance of 132 servers, 2 blade infrastructures, 12 high-end servers, 85 switches, 31 routers, 4 wireless LAN kits, 2 backup systems, 7 security systems, 90 multifunctional and 2 plotter printers, 489 computing devices, 3 photocopiers and 17 digital senders in 4 locations		UNMIK delivered secured data and voice services to mission users by supporting and maintaining:
	132	Servers
	3	Blade infrastructures. The temporary increase was due to the replacement of 1 obsolete blade infrastructure, which is to be written off in the 2016/17 period
	12	High-end servers
	58	Switches
	20	Routers
	2	Wireless LAN kits. The lower numbers of switches, routers and wireless LAN kits were due to the reconfiguration of the wireless network because of the move to the new headquarters premises in Pristina
	2	Backup systems
	7	Security systems

	86	Multifunctional printers
	1	Plotter printer
	16	Digital senders in 4 locations. The lower numbers of multifunctional printers, plotter printers and digital senders were due to the relocation of users from multiple buildings at the former headquarters premises to 1 building at the new headquarters premises
	494	Computing devices. The increased number of computing devices was due to the ongoing replacement of 127 computing devices which have passed life expectancy and will be written off in the 2016/17 period
	3	Photocopiers
Support and maintenance of 8 local area and 10 wide area networks for 597 network accounts and 502 e-mail accounts in 4 individual sites in Pristina, Belgrade, Mitrovica and Peja		UNMIK delivered network and e-mail services by supporting and maintaining:
	8	Local area networks
	10	Wide area networks
	522	Network accounts. The reduced number of accounts was due to the merging of individual network accounts into generic accounts and higher-than-planned vacancy rates for international staff
	451	E-mail accounts. The lower number of e-mail accounts was due to closure of unused e-mail accounts
Support and maintenance of 2 wireless networks (1 public and 1 official) using 34 access points	Yes	UNMIK supported and maintained 2 wireless networks (1 public and 1 official) using 34 access points
Medical		
Operation and maintenance of 1 medical cell	Yes	UNMIK operated and maintained 1 medical cell, which provided 1,066 outpatient consultations, 35 referrals, 2 emergency cases and 4 evacuations (1 medical evacuation by commercial flight and 3 medical emergency evacuations by road)
Operation and maintenance of confidential HIV counselling and testing facilities and health sensitization programmes, including peer education	Yes	UNMIK operated and maintained confidential counselling and testing facilities and health sensitization programmes, including peer education

Security

Provision of security services 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for all United Nations personnel within the Mission area	Yes	UNMIK provided security and safety services to all United Nations personnel within the Mission area 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
Security assessments of United Nations premises in 5 locations and 8 repeater sites and residential security assessments for all United Nations personnel	Yes	UNMIK undertook security assessments of United Nations premises in 6 locations and 9 repeater sites, including residential security assessments for all new staff members and for existing staff members who changed residences
Support and maintenance of the workplace safety and security programme through the provision of induction briefings and security training, including fire training to 10 security officers, and the issuance of regular security advisories to all Mission personnel	Yes	The Mission conducted regular emergency evacuation exercises, warden training sessions and 2 fire training sessions for 10 security officers, issued regular security advisories and provided security and safety induction briefings to 192 staff members

III. Resource performance

A. Financial resources

(Thousands of United States dollars. Budget year is from 1 July 2016 to 30 June 2017.)

Category	Apportionment (1)	Expenditure (2)	Variance (3) = (1) − (2)	Variance (4) = (3) ÷ (1)
Military and police personnel				
Military observers	337.8	268.5	69.3	20.5
Military contingents	–	–	–	–
United Nations police	335.4	242.4	93.0	27.7
Formed police units	–	–	–	–
Subtotal	**673.2**	**510.9**	**162.3**	**24.1**
Civilian personnel				
International staff	21 705.8	18 849.9	2 855.9	13.2
National staff	9 196.0	8 559.2	636.8	6.9
United Nations Volunteers	1 006.6	770.4	236.2	23.5
General temporary assistance	–	20.1	(20.1)	–
Government-provided personnel	–	–	–	–
Subtotal	**31 908.4**	**28 199.6**	**3 708.8**	**11.6**
Operational costs				
Civilian electoral observers	–	–	–	–
Consultants	197.3	199.9	(2.6)	(1.3)
Official travel	326.0	535.5	(209.5)	(64.3)
Facilities and infrastructure	2 408.4	3 883.6	(1 475.2)	(61.3)
Ground transportation	280.0	546.2	(266.2)	(95.1)
Air transportation	–	–	–	–
Naval transportation	–	–	–	–
Communications	1 324.9	768.8	556.1	42.0
Information technology	1 758.4	1 910.1	(151.7)	(8.6)
Medical	50.2	23.5	26.7	53.1
Special equipment	–	–	–	–
Other supplies, services and equipment	690.2	2 313.7	(1 623.5)	(235.2)
Quick-impact projects	414.0	412.9	1.1	0.3
Subtotal	**7 449.4**	**10 594.3**	**(3 144.9)**	**(42.2)**
Gross requirements	**40 031.0**	**39 304.8**	**726.2**	**1.8**
Staff assessment income	3 760.8	3 537.8	223.0	5.9
Net requirements	**36 270.2**	**35 766.9**	**503.3**	**1.4**
Voluntary contributions in kind (budgeted)	–	–	–	–
Total requirements	**40 031.0**	**39 304.8**	**726.2**	**1.8**

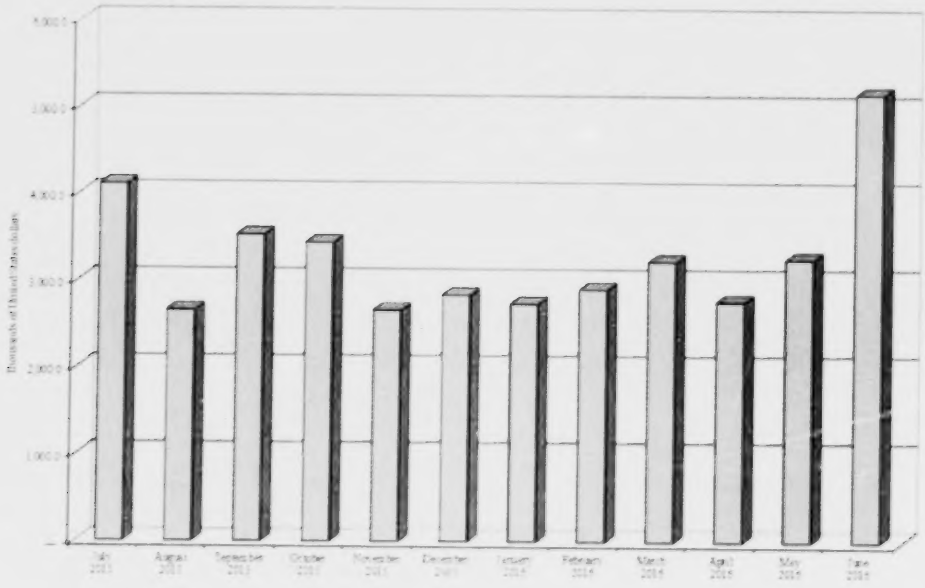
B. Summary information on redeployments across groups

(Thousands of United States dollars)

	Appropriation		
Group	*Original distribution*	*Redeployment*	*Revised distribution*
I. Military and police personnel	673.2	–	673.2
II. Civilian personnel	31 908.4	(3 400.4)	28 508.0
III. Operational costs	7 449.4	3 400.4	10 849.8
Total	**40 031.0**	–	**40 031.0**
Percentage of redeployment to total appropriation			8.5

27. During the reporting period, funds were redeployed to group III, operational costs, primarily to cover: (a) the settlement of a claim for non-consensual use of land; (b) rule of law programmatic activities; (c) acquisition of hybrid vehicles; and (d) procurement for alteration and renovation services. Funds were available in group II, civilian personnel, due to the reduced requirements for international staff, owing primarily to a higher-than-planned vacancy rate and a lower-than-budgeted post adjustment multiplier, and reduced requirements for national staff, owing to lower-than-budgeted salary costs.

C. Monthly expenditure pattern



28. The higher expenditure in the month of July 2015 was mainly attributable to the creation of obligations for rental payments. The higher expenditure in the month of June 2016 was mainly attributable to operational costs related to the implementation of rule of law programmatic activities and to the settlement of a claim for non-consensual use of premises.

D. Other revenue and adjustments

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	*(Amount)*
Investment revenue	53.3
Other/miscellaneous revenue	194.1
Voluntary contributions in cash	–
Prior-period adjustments	–
Cancellation of prior-period obligations	160.7
Total	**408.1**

E. Value of non-budgeted contributions

(Thousands of United States dollars)

Category	*Actual value*
Status-of-mission agreement[a]	82.4
Voluntary contributions in kind (non-budgeted)	–
Total	**82.4**

[a] Inclusive of land and premises provided by the Government of Serbia to the United Nations Office in Belgrade.

IV. Analysis of variances[1]

	Variance	
Military observers	$69.3	20.5%

29. The reduced requirements were mainly attributable to no claims being made for death and disability compensation, offset in part by increased requirements for mission subsistence allowance costs.

[1] Resource variance amounts are expressed in thousands of United States dollars. Analysis is provided for variances of at least plus or minus 5 per cent or $100,000.

	Variance	
United Nations police	$93.0	27.7%

30. The reduced requirements were attributable to no claims being made for death and disability compensation and a lower-than-budgeted number of rotations.

	Variance	
International staff	$2 855.9	13.2%

31. The reduced requirements were mainly attributable to: (a) an actual average post adjustment multiplier of 30.7 per cent compared with a budgeted multiplier of 45.1 per cent; and (b) an actual average vacancy rate of 11.2 per cent compared with a budgeted rate of 5.0 per cent.

	Variance	
National staff	$636.8	6.9%

32. The reduced requirements were mainly attributable to a lower-than-budgeted actual average salary level for national General Service staff.

	Variance	
United Nations Volunteers	$236.2	23.5%

33. The reduced requirements were mainly attributable to: (a) the higher actual average vacancy rate of 22.2 per cent compared with a budgeted rate of 14.0 per cent. The higher actual average vacancy rate reflects the non-recruitment against posts proposed for abolishment in the proposed budget for the 2016/17 period; and (b) the lower-than-budgeted actual average volunteer living allowance rate of $2,190 compared with the budgeted volunteer living allowance rate of $2,504.

	Variance	
Official travel	($209.5)	(64.3%)

34. The increased requirements were mainly attributable to additional travel for Umoja training for 14 staff members compared with the budgeted travel for Umoja training for 2 staff members, and additional requirements for seven information technology workshops and six peace process training sessions.

	Variance	
Facilities and infrastructure	($1 475.2)	(61.3%)

35. The increased requirements were mainly attributable to: (a) the settlement of a claim for non-consensual use of premises; and (b) additional expenditures for alteration and renovation services, owing to: (i) the refurbishment of the United Nations Office in Belgrade to increase the energy efficiency of the building, which will allow UNMIK to reduce its energy consumption in future periods; and (ii) the upgrade of the electrical installations of the offices at the new headquarters in Pristina, including the installation of LED lighting fixtures to improve the perimeter

security of the headquarters compound and to reduce its energy consumption in future periods.

		Variance
Ground transportation	($266.2)	(95.1%)

36. The increased expenditures were mainly attributable to the acquisition of 20 hybrid vehicles. The hybrid vehicles were acquired following the environmental policy and vehicle fleet management guidelines received from the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support in September and December 2015 respectively. This was offset in part by reduced expenditures under petrol, oil and lubricants, owing to the reduced usage of light passenger and heavy duty vehicles and to the actual average fuel price of $0.37 per litre, compared with the budgeted price of $0.58 per litre.

		Variance
Communications	$556.1	42.0%

37. The reduced requirements were mainly attributable to: (a) reduced expenditures for lease line services by 60 per cent, owing to new contracts and the non-acquisition of a budgeted lease line for the Mitrovica regional office due to the presence of an UNMIK backup microwave link; (b) reduced mobile telephone charges by more than 50 per cent, owing to new telephone contracts and less usage; and (c) reduced requirements for courier services.

		Variance
Information technology	($151.7)	(8.6%)

38. The increased requirements were mainly attributable to information technology services, owing to additional expenditures for centralized support services. This was offset in part by reduced requirements for maintenance and repair of equipment, owing to the non-acquisition of budgeted information technology equipment.

		Variance
Medical	$26.7	53.1%

39. The reduced requirements were mainly attributable to the non-occurrence of medical emergency evacuation by air ambulance during the reporting period.

		Variance
Other supplies, services and equipment	($1 623.5)	(235.2%)

40. The increased requirements were mainly attributable to the implementation of rule of law programmatic activities and individual contractor fees related to the relocation to the new headquarters in Pristina.

V. Actions to be taken by the General Assembly

41. **The actions to be taken by the General Assembly in connection with the financing of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo are:**

(a) **To decide on the treatment of the unencumbered balance of $726,200 with respect to the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016;**

(b) **To decide on the treatment of other revenue for the period ended 30 June 2016 amounting to $408,100 from investment revenue ($53,300), other/miscellaneous revenue ($194,100) and cancellation of prior-period obligations ($160,700).**

VI. Summary of follow-up action taken to implement the requests and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 70/286

(A/70/742)

Request/recommendation	*Action taken to implement request/recommendation*
The Committee looks forward to analysing the variances between budgeted and actual expenditures for the 2015/16 financial period, including through the provision of additional analytical information in the next performance reports as well as in the periodic updates on redeployments between groups and classes of expenditure, as described in paragraph 28 above. (para. 33).	Variances between budgeted and actual expenditures are analysed for the budget performance report of UNMIK. Redeployment between groups and classes of expenditures are also analysed during the performance period. UNMIK benefited from Umoja in analysing the variances between budgeted and actual expenditures and redeployments between groups and classes of expenditures.

United Nations A/71/616–S/2016/768

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
7 September 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 36
The situation in Afghanistan

Security Council
Seventy-first year

The situation in Afghanistan and its implications for international peace and security*

Report of the Secretary-General

I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/11 and Security Council resolution 2274 (2016), in which I was requested to report every three months on developments in Afghanistan.

2. The report provides an update on the activities of the United Nations in Afghanistan, including significant humanitarian, development and human rights efforts, since the issuance of my report of 10 June 2016 (A/70/924-S/2016/532). It also provides a summary of key political and security developments and regional and international events relating to Afghanistan.

II. Relevant developments

3. Increased tensions between the President of Afghanistan, Ashraf Ghani, and the Chief Executive, Abdullah Abdullah, persistent security challenges and rising pressure from political opposition groups contributed to growing volatility. The Parliament confirmed two key appointments, for Minister of Defence and Director of National Security, ensuring a full roster of security-related cabinet officials for the first time since its establishment almost two years ago. Afghanistan secured international funding for the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces through 2020. The security forces were heavily tested across the country amid ongoing clashes with the Taliban which generated civilian casualties at the highest level since the United Nations began systematic documentation in 2009 and fresh displacements. Meanwhile, the prospects for a possible peace process with the

* Third reissue for technical reasons (14 December 2016), previously issued under the symbol A/70/1033-S/2016/768.

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Taliban remained limited. The Government continued its preparations for the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan, to be held on 5 October 2016, including the Afghan National Peace and Development Framework. Tangible gains were achieved in implementing the anti-corruption agenda.

A. Political developments

4. Tensions within the Government increased significantly during the reporting period. On 11 August, the Chief Executive publicly voiced criticisms of what he viewed as insufficient consultations by the President on key appointments and as incomplete implementation of the agreement establishing the National Unity Government. The appointments included that of the former Independent Election Commission Chair, Ahmad Yusuf Nuristani, as Ambassador to Spain, and that of the Presidential Senior Adviser on Strategic Communications, Nader Naderi, as head of the Independent Administrative Reform and Civil Service Commission, announced on 9 July and 9 August, respectively. The two leaders met on 17 August in order for the concerns of the Chief Executive to be heard. Further meetings are expected.

5. Before the political rift between the President and the Chief Executive, the Government faced increasingly public challenges from political opposition leaders claiming that the agreement establishing the National Unity Government would expire in September 2016, two years after its signing on 21 September 2014 and absent electoral reforms, parliamentary and district council elections and the convening of a loya jirga to adopt constitutional amendments. They included the former President, Hamid Karzai, and a prominent member of the opposition Afghanistan Protection and Stability Council, Omar Daudzai, who both stressed the need for a loya jirga.

6. There were a number of public protests during the reporting period that drew the participation of opposition figures. On 22 July, a demonstration in Khost Province involved a reported 7,000 protestors, who called for the dissolution of the Government and the holding of a loya jirga to appoint a new one. On 23 July, ethnic Hazara demonstrated in the city of Kabul against the routing of an electricity infrastructure project. When the march was targeted by two suicide bombers, killing 73 civilians and injuring 293, the subsequent condolence ceremony on 25 July drew former President Karzai and several other former government officials. The site became an assembly point for those protesting against the Government. On 29 July, the leaders of the demonstration of 23 July issued a statement, pledging to hold further protests should their demands not be met by the Government.

7. There were protests from 27 July to 6 August in Faryab, Kandahar and Nangarhar provinces on issues relating to government performance, lack of security and official appointments. On 1 August, ethnic Tajik activists threatened to hold protests and stage a ceremonial reburial on 1 September of a Tajik leader who was briefly in power in 1929. The activists received support from the Chief Executive; the former Minister of the Interior, Zarar Ahmad Moqbel Osmani; and the acting Governor of Balkh Province, Mohammad Atta Nur.

8. Armed groups claiming association with government officials who have strong powerbases in the north, particularly those affiliated with the Junbish-i Milli and Jamiat-e Islami political parties, continued to contribute to insecurity. On 26 June, following accusations of human rights abuses in Faryab Province by militias

claiming loyalty to the Junbish-i Milli party. President Ghani ordered an investigation and instructed the Junbish leader, the First Vice-President, Abdul Rashid Dostum, to halt his military operations and return to the city of Kabul.

9. Progress was made in senior appointments. On 20 June, the lower house of the National Assembly confirmed Masoom Stanekzai as Director of the National Directorate of Security and Abdullah Khan Habibi as Minister of Defence, providing the current Government with a full roster of security-focused cabinet officials for the first time. Important positions remain occupied by officials serving in an acting capacity, including the Minister of Mines and Petroleum, the head of the Independent Directorate for Local Governance and the governors of Balkh and Nuristan provinces.

10. President Ghani appointed several Presidential advisers in response to calls for more inclusive appointments. On 23 June, President Ghani appointed Farooq Wardak, former Minister for Education under former President Karzai, as Senior Adviser on Provincial Affairs, and on 28 July, Mohammad Almas Zahid, a parliamentarian from Parwan Province, as Senior Adviser on National Solidarity Affairs. On 2 August, Abu Hussain Yasir, leader of the People's Islamic Movement of Afghanistan political party, a predominantly Shia grouping, was appointed Presidential Adviser on security issues; while on 9 August, Hamidullah Farooqi, former Minister of Transport and Civil Aviation under former President Karzai, was appointed Chancellor of Kabul University. On 14 August, Ustad Abdul Halim, affiliated with the Afghan Protection and Stability Council, led by Abdul Rasul Sayyaf, was appointed as Presidential Adviser on tribal affairs.

11. There was incremental progress towards the electoral reforms that are to precede future elections, as provided for in the agreement establishing the National Unity Government. After a joint commission of the National Assembly failed to resolve disagreements over a decree concerning electoral management bodies which had been rejected on 13 June by the Lower House and approved on 28 June by the Upper House, the legislative body entered its summer recess on 21 July. With the status of the decree in question, the President and the Chief Executive met with members of the international community on 14 July and reiterated their commitment to implement electoral reforms and hold parliamentary and district council elections. In a letter of 31 July, the Independent Commission for Overseeing the Implementation of the Constitution advised that the Government could issue a new decree without sending it to the National Assembly during the last year of the legislative term. The Government continued working on a draft decree whose issuance would enable some electoral reforms and preparations to move forward.

12. Prospects for talks between the Government and the Taliban remained very limited during the reporting period, as the new Taliban leader, Mullah Haibatullah Akhundzada, concentrated efforts on consolidating his authority and on combat operations. There were no reports of significant dissent in the Taliban movement following the leadership change. In a speech marking the end of Ramadan on 6 July, the President called on the Taliban to join a peace and reconciliation process. On 14 July, an Afghan presidential spokesperson stated that there were no plans for a sixth meeting of the Quadrilateral Coordination Group on the Afghan Peace and Reconciliation Process, comprising Afghanistan, China, Pakistan and the United States of America. Meanwhile, a Taliban delegation visited Chengdu, China, on 21 and 22 July.

13. Peace talks between the Afghan Government and Hezb-i-Islami Gulbuddin stalled, reportedly on such issues as the timeline for the withdrawal of foreign forces and guarantees of security and political representation for the group. In his Eid message on 3 July, the Hezb-i-Islami leader, Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, stated that his fighters were instructed to act against Afghan security forces only in self-defence.

14. The High Peace Council made progress in developing its new structure and strategy, which it presented to the international community on 1 August. Consultation on the draft Afghanistan Peace and Reconciliation Strategy was undertaken with civil society representatives, including women's organizations, in furtherance of the Government's implementation of the Afghan national plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security. Donors agreed to extend the interim funding for the Council through the end of September.

15. The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) facilitated several events in support of local peace initiatives during the reporting period. On 20 July in the city of Pul-e-Khumri in Baghlan Province, approximately 225 representatives from provincial government and civil society, as well as religious scholars from the districts, participated in a peace jirga convened by provincial authorities and supported by UNAMA. Participants resolved to work towards peace in their districts. On 9 August, UNAMA hosted a regional conference on the role of youth in the peace process, attended by 40 district youth representatives of Samangan, Balkh, Sari Pul and Jawzjan provinces. Participants adopted a declaration calling on the Government and the international community to involve youth in the peace process and to hold a national youth conference to discuss peace initiatives.

B. Security

16. The security situation remained highly volatile as intensive Taliban operations continued. Since the movement launched its spring offensive on 12 April, armed clashes have occurred at consistently high levels. During the reporting period, the Taliban focused their operations on challenging government control in key districts of Baghlan, Kunduz and Takhar provinces in the north-eastern region, Faryab and Jawzjan provinces in the northern region and Helmand, Kandahar and Uruzgan provinces in the southern region, including attempts to capture district administrative centres and cut key supply routes.

17. Between May and July, the number of armed clashes increased by 14.7 per cent as compared with the three previous months, and was 24 per cent higher than during the same period in 2015. After a slight decline around the Ramadan period, from 7 June to 6 July, the Taliban offensive regained momentum after 19 July, with the brief capture of the district administrative centres of Khanashin and Sangin (Helmand Province), Qush Tepa (Jawzjan Province), Dahanai Ghuri (Baghlan Province), Dasht-e Archi, Khanabad and Qala-i-Zal (Kunduz Province) and Khwaja Ghar (Takhar Province) and continuing pressure on the provincial capital of Helmand, Lashkar Gah. Although the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces regained control of most district centres, these locations remained under significant pressure, particularly in the south and north-east.

18. Between 20 May and 15 August, the United Nations recorded 5,996 security incidents across the country, representing a 4.7 per cent increase as compared with the same period in 2015 and a 3.6 per cent decrease against the same period in 2014. Consistent with previous trends, armed clashes accounted for the majority of security incidents, at 62.6 per cent, followed by those involving improvised explosive devices, at 17.3 per cent. The southern, south-eastern and eastern regions continued to account for the majority of security incidents in the country, with 68.1 per cent of the total incidents recorded during the period. Anti-Government elements also continued their asymmetric attacks, to exert influence through abductions, intimidation and assassinations. In total, from 20 May to 15 August, 268 assassinations, including 40 failed attempts, were recorded, representing a 6.2 per cent decrease against the same period in 2015. In addition, 109 abductions were recorded across the country during the reporting period, including 15 mass abductions. Suicide attacks decreased from 26 to 17 as compared with the same period in 2015. High-profile attacks in Kabul continued, including the attack of 23 July against Hazara protesters, for which Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant-Khorasan Province (ISIL-KP) claimed responsibility. The Taliban condemned the attack. On 1 August, the Taliban claimed responsibility for a complex attack against an international compound housing foreign contractors. The three attackers and a police officer were killed.

19. At the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) Summit in Warsaw, Poland, on 8 and 9 July, NATO members and Resolute Support Mission contributors formalized agreement on the continued presence of the Mission in Afghanistan beyond 2016 under its current structure. At the Summit, the President and the Chief Executive undertook a commitment that the Government would assume financial responsibility for its security forces by 2024 and continue implementation of its reform agenda, including combating corruption and the protection of civilians. NATO members, as well as Japan and the Republic of Korea, affirmed their commitment to continuing financial contributions to the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces until the end of 2020. The Summit outcome was welcomed by Afghan political leaders. On 6 July, the President of the United States, Barack Obama, announced his decision to maintain 8,400 United States troops in the country into January 2017. This superseded an earlier plan to reduce this figure to 5,500 by the end of 2016. In June, President Obama authorized revised rules of engagement, allowing United States troops to provide more direct support to the Afghan security forces and broaden the use of air strikes, including against the Taliban.

20. The Afghan security forces made some progress in further increasing their air capacity, and operations in Kunduz demonstrated greater tactical flexibility, even though significant shortcomings persisted in the areas of command and control, leadership and logistics. Reports have pointed to increasing casualties among security forces since June, particularly those killed in action. Questions about sustainability continued to be raised, in the light of the high attrition rates. Recruitment remained on target, but re-enlistment and retention remain low and need to be increased to compensate for the losses incurred through casualties and desertion. In July, Afghan National Army troop levels and Afghan National Police numbers reached 86.6 per cent and 94 per cent, respectively, of projected levels. Despite ongoing efforts to strengthen the operational capacity of the Afghan security

forces, they continued to rely on special forces and international military forces for reinforcement.

21. In addition to the conflict between Afghan security forces and the Taliban, violence continued with other armed anti-Government groups on Afghan territory, including ISIL-KP. Since my last report, the Afghan security forces have increased ground and air operations, supported by international military assets, against ISIL-KP in Nangarhar Province. Reportedly, these operations have resulted in significant casualties among ISIL-KP fighters, including the death of its leader, Hafiz Saeed Khan, on 26 July, and a further reduced presence of the group in the province. Some of the dislodged ISIL-KP fighters were reported to have gone to Kunar Province.

22. Notwithstanding the consolidation of Haibatullah Akhundzada's leadership of the Taliban, armed clashes resumed in Shindand District of Herat Province in early July between two local commanders affiliated with Akhundzada and Mullah Rasool, reportedly resulting in the killing of several Taliban members, and continued throughout early August.

23. During the reporting period, 14 recorded incidents were either directly or indirectly against the United Nations. These included six cases of intimidation and seven crime-related incidents which mainly affected Afghan staff members.

C. Regional cooperation

24. Since my previous report, limited prospects for peace talks with the Taliban, the status of Afghan refugees in Pakistan and border tensions have continued to affect relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan. The Pakistani authorities remained committed to the implementation of their procedures at the Torkham crossing point, as of 1 June allowing only Afghans with visas to cross. From 12 to 14 June, border forces exchanged fire at Torkham after Pakistan began installing a gate in what both countries consider their territory. In total, four border force personnel were killed and 40 wounded, and the crossing point was closed. After diplomatic exchanges, the two countries announced a ceasefire on 15 June and agreed on 24 June to establish a high-level coordination mechanism to prevent cross-border clashes, which met in the city of Kabul on 26 July. When Pakistan completed construction at the Torkham crossing point on 1 August, the Government of Afghanistan denounced the works. Tensions increased again on 19 August, when the Pakistani authorities closed the Chaman crossing point in Kandahar Province, on the grounds that Afghan border forces had failed to prevent attacks against the gate by Afghan protesters. Meanwhile, political opposition figures and protestors increased pressure on the Government of Afghanistan regarding its policy towards Pakistan.

25. Regional engagement on infrastructure and connectivity projects continued during the reporting period. On 4 June, President Ghani and the Prime Minister of India, Narendra Modi, inaugurated the Indian-financed Salma Dam and committed to turning the city of Herat into a regional transport hub. The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan, Rashid Meredov, made visits to Afghanistan to discuss the planned Herat-Torghundi railway and to announce funding for the Aqina-Andkhoy railway. On 2 and 3 July, the President of Afghanistan visited the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and met with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud and the Deputy Crown Prince and Minister of Defence, Mohammad bin Salman Al Saud.

26. Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran increased their engagement during the reporting period, following their trilateral agreement of 23 May with India, centred on the Iranian port of Chabahar. The Islamic Republic of Iran hosted a meeting of governors of border provinces of Afghanistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran in Mashhad on 25 and 26 July to discuss security and new trade opportunities involving the port. The Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs, Hekmat Karzai, visited Tehran on 3 August for discussions on trade, infrastructure and the presence of Afghan nationals in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The National Security Adviser, Hanif Atmar, visited the Islamic Republic of Iran on 6 and 7 August to discuss border security and countering violent extremism. After a four-year interval, the fifth Afghanistan-Islamic Republic of Iran Joint Economic Commission was held on 10 August in Tehran.

27. Security and economic cooperation featured in discussions between Afghanistan, Central Asian countries, China and the Russian Federation. At the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit in Tashkent, on 23 and 24 June, Heads of State emphasized the importance for the region of peace and stability in Afghanistan. President Ghani called on countries in the region to join Afghanistan in fighting terrorism and to agree on regional cooperation mechanisms. The National Security Adviser visited the Russian Federation from 25 to 27 July to discuss cooperation against the threat of terrorism and security assistance. He also visited Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan on 10 and 12 August to discuss security issues.

28. China initiated a Quadrilateral Cooperation and Coordination Mechanism to counter terrorism involving Afghanistan, Pakistan and Tajikistan. At the inaugural meeting of 3 August, hosted by China, the countries agreed to increase coordination and information-sharing, including on border management.

III. Human rights

29. On 25 July, UNAMA released its midyear report on the protection of civilians in armed conflict in Afghanistan covering the period from 1 January to 30 June. UNAMA documented 5,166 civilian casualties (1,601 deaths and 3,565 injured), reflecting a 4 per cent increase as compared with the same period in 2015. This represents the highest number of civilian casualties recorded by UNAMA in a midyear report since 2009. The casualty figures include 507 women (130 deaths and 377 injured), an 11 per cent decrease as compared with the same period in 2015. Child casualties increased significantly, by 18 per cent, to 1,509 (388 deaths and 1,121 injured), primarily as a result of ground engagements and unexploded ordnance. The Mission attributed 60 per cent of all civilian casualties to anti-Government elements, 23 per cent to pro-Government forces (of which 20 per cent to the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces, 2 per cent to pro-Government armed groups and 1 per cent to international military forces) and 13 per cent to crossfire between anti-Government elements and pro-Government forces which could not be attributed to a single party. Four per cent of civilian casualties were attributed to explosive remnants of war. Ground engagements remained the leading cause of civilian casualties, accounting for 1,972 casualties (459 deaths and 1,423 injured), followed by complex and suicide attacks and improvised explosive devices. In response to the report, the Office of the President issued a statement emphasizing its commitment to the protection of civilians and

stating that the Government had finalized its national policy on civilian casualty mitigation, which would soon enter into force.

30. Large-scale attacks by Taliban and anti-Government elements in civilian-populated areas and attacks directed at civilians continued. On 20 June, the Taliban claimed responsibility for a suicide attack targeting a vehicle transporting private security contractors in the city of Kabul, killing 15 civilians and injuring 7 others. On 30 June, a suicide attack against a convoy carrying Afghan National Police cadets in the city of Kabul killed 34 civilians and injured 79. The Taliban claimed responsibility.

31. Between 1 April and 30 June, the country task force on monitoring and reporting documented and verified 399 incidents that resulted in the killing of 213 children (150 boys, 60 girls and three undetermined) and the injury of 600 others (395 boys, 203 girls and two undetermined). Ground engagements were the leading cause of child casualties, with 436 casualties (54 per cent of all casualties), followed by improvised explosive devices, with 123 child casualties (15 per cent of all casualties). Explosive remnants of war were the third most frequent cause of child casualties, with 95 casualties (12 per cent of all child casualties). Aerial attacks led to 51 child casualties (6 per cent of all casualties), including 42 attributed to the Afghan National Army and 9 to international military forces. The task force attributed the remaining 108 child casualties to a number of tactics, including targeted killings and suicide and complex attacks.

32. The task force attributed the largest number of child casualties (39 per cent), including 212 casualties attributed to the Taliban, to anti-Government elements, followed by pro-Government forces (36 per cent of child casualties). Four child casualties were attributed to Pakistan military forces owing to cross-border shelling. The remaining 203 casualties could not be attributed to any party to the conflict. Of the remaining violations, the United Nations verified seven incidents targeting education facilities; eight targeting health facilities; one incident of abduction involving one boy; and four incidents of denial of humanitarian access. During the reporting period, the United Nations received reports of the widespread use of children in combat by the Taliban in Badakhshan Province. As a consequence, 100 to 120 households reportedly left the area, citing fear of the Taliban recruiting their children as one of the reasons for moving. From June to August, the Ministry of the Interior opened six new child protection units in police recruitment centres in Bamyan, Sari Pul, Jawzjan, Samangan, Kunar and Laghman provinces, bringing the total number of such units to 13 countrywide.

33. During the reporting period, the ministries of the Interior and Education and the National Directorate of Security issued directives to strengthen the protection of children. On 18 June, the Ministry of the Interior issued a directive prohibiting media exposure of children arrested on national security charges. On 4 June and 4 July, the Ministry of Education sent two directives to all security-related ministries highlighting the commitment of Afghanistan to the Safe Schools Declaration and requesting security forces to stop using schools for military purposes. On 2 July, the National Directorate of Security issued a directive stopping the transfer to and facilitating the release of children from adult detention facilities, including the maximum security Detention Facility in Parwan Province, near the city of Kabul.

34. The Government continued its efforts to address violence against women and girls. On 11 June, the Government approved the strategy and the action plan on the elimination of violence against women for the period 2016-2020. On 26 July, the Head of the Department of Women's Affairs in the city of Ghazni was attacked by unknown assailants.

35. On 17 July, the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission published its annual report on child marriage, documenting 235 cases of girls married between March 2015 and March 2016. This represents a 4 per cent increase as compared with the previous year. The report proposed a range of corrective actions in line with the existing legal framework for the protection of girls.

36. During the reporting period, UNAMA documented the executions of two women accused of "moral crimes" by anti-Government elements in Samangan and Sari Pul provinces in northern Afghanistan on 16 July and 1 August, respectively. In Takhar Province in June, attempts by anti-Government elements to implement stoning sentences on one woman were averted after an intervention by elders. Since the beginning of 2016, UNAMA has documented seven instances of parallel justice punishments, resulting in the execution of four women and the physical punishment of three women by anti-Government elements.

37. The United Nations continued to raise awareness of women's rights and provide direct support services to women. From 20 July to 10 August, the United Nations organized round tables on women's rights in Baghlan, Herat, Khost, Paktika and Zabul provinces, which reached over 300 Afghans, including 180 women, and televised debates. The United Nations continued to support 11 women's protection centres and 5 family guidance centres for survivors of domestic violence in 13 provinces. The Under-Secretary-General/Executive Director of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, visited the city of Kabul from 18 to 21 July and met with the President and the Chief Executive.

38. On 15 June, the upper house of the National Assembly confirmed the prior rejection by the lower house of the presidential decree of 2 September 2015 on preventive detention, citing the rights to due process and liberty secured by the Constitution. Other parts of the presidential decree were approved, including provisions extending pretrial detention periods for individuals arrested on security-related offences.

39. In response to a request by the Ministry of Justice, UNAMA completed its countrywide assessment of juvenile rehabilitation centres in relation to the United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty (the Havana Rules). While there has been progress in the last decade, it was indicated in the report that further improvements were required, such as increasing the number of State juvenile rehabilitation centres.

IV. Implementation of the Kabul process and the coordination of development assistance

40. Afghanistan continued to face challenges resulting from, inter alia, the 2014 transition and slow economic growth. At the above-mentioned NATO Summit held in Warsaw in July, Donors renewed commitments to the security sector, but World

Bank and International Monetary Fund analyses have underscored consistently since 2012 that Afghan security expenditures will become unsustainable over time, absent increased revenues from economic growth and expenditure consolidation, particularly in the security sector.

41. On 20 July, the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund approved a three-year extended credit facility arrangement for Afghanistan valued at $45 million. The economic programme under the facility is aimed to help catalyse additional donor support and to support national policies for economic growth. After Parliament ratified the accession treaty on 22 June, Afghanistan gained full membership of the World Trade Organization on 29 July.

42. Government preparations for the Brussels Conference on Afghanistan continued, with a second draft of the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework released to development partners for comments on 30 July. Their feedback focused on issues including macroeconomic projections, sectoral priorities and the importance of addressing population displacement in government development plans. The Government has committed itself to tabling a completed draft of the framework at a special meeting of the Joint Coordination and Monitoring Board on 4 September.

43. In August, the Government began a preliminary presentation of sectoral development plans, including the Citizen's Charter model for service delivery, agriculture, urban development, women's economic empowerment and infrastructure, to donor representatives in advance of the Brussels Conference. Discussions also began on the Government's proposals for refreshing deliverables under the Self Reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework for 2017-2018, with both Government and development partners aiming to ensure that deliverables are clearly linked to the Afghanistan National Peace and Development Framework. On 31 July, civil society networks launched a series of national and subnational consultations to map concerns and inform a position paper for the Brussels Conference.

44. The Government increased efforts to implement its anti-corruption agenda. On 30 June, the Government issued a presidential decree establishing a specialized court to deal with corruption cases, the Anti-Corruption Criminal Justice Centre. On 28 July, the President chaired the first meeting of the High Council on Governance, Justice and Anti-Corruption. At the meeting, the High Council approved the Supreme Court's recommendations relating to the national jurisdiction of the Centre's courts, which will extend to major corruption cases committed in all provinces involving senior officials or substantial monetary losses of a minimum of 5 million afghanis (approximately $73,000).

45. Developments were reported in the land reform process. On 12 July, the Chief Executive Officer of the Afghanistan Land Authority announced that the approval process for private investors leasing State-owned land had been streamlined from 52 administrative steps to 9. As a result, processing time went from several months to several weeks, and land lease revenues increased from $140,000 to $3.4 million. The UNAMA report, "Water Rights: An Assessment of Afghanistan's Legal Framework Governing Water for Agriculture" containing recommendations for dispute resolution mechanisms, was shared with the Ministry of Energy and Water and the Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock.

46. The revision of the subnational governance policy, one of the Government's short-term commitments under the Self Reliance through Mutual Accountability Framework, continued. During the reporting period, the Independent Directorate of Local Governance organized a series of provincial consultations on the revised draft of the subnational governance policy in 30 of the 34 provinces. This is to be followed by discussions with line ministries, civil society and international partners before submission of the revised draft to the President and Cabinet for approval. The Government also continued to implement its public service reform agenda. The President appointed six municipal mayors in August through a competitive process, bringing the total number of competitively appointed mayors to 21 out of 33 in 2016 or 154 in total.

47. The Government continued its efforts to professionalize the Afghan National Police. Ministry of the Interior officials worked during the reporting period to strengthen the Ministry's strategic plan, with international support, including that of UNAMA. On 31 July, the International Police Coordination Board approved the outline for a detailed action plan to address key gaps in the areas of police leadership, training, command and control, and monitoring and evaluation of programme implementation. The United Nations continued to provide technical support to promote a gender-sensitive security sector reform. In May and June, UNAMA met with 314 female Afghan National Police members, representing some 10 per cent of the female police corps, as well as Afghan National Police officials in 19 of the 34 provinces, to assess progress. Gaps were identified in the protection of female police officers, particularly with regard to workplace harassment and the implementation of gender policies at the district level. On 11 July, the Ministry of the Interior established a complaint mechanism to prevent and respond to sexual harassment against women police. To increase the number of women police officers, the Ministry provided training to 91 women Afghan National Police members in Turkey.

V. Humanitarian assistance

48. The humanitarian situation remained of concern, with significant new conflict-induced internal displacements exacerbated by continuing access challenges. The vulnerability of rural communities was further exacerbated by continued displacements, persistently high levels of malnutrition and limited access to health care.

49. As at 14 August, the United Nations had recorded 211,246 newly internally displaced persons since January 2016 in 29 of the 34 provinces, a 6.6 per cent decrease as compared with the same period in 2015. At least 48,068 people have been newly displaced since the beginning of June. Over half of the new displacements were reported in the three provinces of Badakhshan, Helmand and Takhar. In Nangarhar Province, 3,306 people have been displaced in the last two months as a result of escalating air operations by government and international forces against ISIL-KP. In Helmand Province, increased clashes around the provincial capital of Lashkar Gah have resulted in the displacement of over 15,000 people to date. The United Nations and non-governmental organizations provided humanitarian assistance, including cash, food and non-food items, to the displaced populations. Access constraints and difficulties in determining accurate displacement figures continue to hinder the humanitarian response.

50. Displaced populations remain extremely vulnerable, particularly communities which have been displaced for prolonged periods or repeatedly. Food insecurity, limited access to basic services, particularly health care and adequate water and sanitation, further exacerbate health and malnutrition concerns. Recent assessments of displaced populations across Afghanistan found emergency levels of severe acute malnutrition among children under 5 years of age. Some of the provinces that reported the highest levels of displacements, including Helmand and Uruzgan, were already experiencing difficulties in meeting the existing needs of 170,000 children identified as requiring treatment for malnutrition due to limited service coverage.

51. The number of refugees returning through the United Nations voluntary repatriation programme has increased substantially since July, after remaining very low between January and June. As at 30 June, 7,804 refugees had been repatriated, including 6,875 from Pakistan and 852 from the Islamic Republic of Iran. The figures for returnees, particularly those from Pakistan, have increased by 450 per cent in the first six weeks since 1 July. By 15 August, a total of 42,472 Afghans had returned from Pakistan under the voluntary repatriation programme since 2002, while 1,560 had returned from the Islamic Republic of Iran and 100 from other countries. The increase is attributed to enhanced reintegration support by the United Nations, including an increase in the individual repatriation grant from $150 to $350, as well as uncertainties over the status of Afghan refugees in Pakistan beyond the end of 2016 and reduced acceptance by host communities and local authorities.

52. Deportation and returns of undocumented Afghans from Pakistan have also increased substantially since 1 July as compared with the first six months of the year, whereas they remained steady from the Islamic Republic of Iran. This follows a 25 per cent decrease in the deportation and returns of undocumented Afghans from Pakistan and the Islamic Republic of Iran between 1 January and 30 June as compared with the same period in 2015. The 253,041 undocumented Afghans included 138,768 spontaneous returns (116,123 from the Islamic Republic of Iran and 22,645 from Pakistan) and 114,273 deportations (99,649 from the Islamic Republic of Iran and 14,624 from Pakistan). Numbers have peaked since July, with a total of 29,135 returns and deportations from Pakistan in July and 35,000 in the first two weeks of August. Returnees cited increased policing and uncertainty over their status in Pakistan, including a fear of eviction, as the main reasons for leaving.

53. On 29 June, the Government of Pakistan extended the validity of Afghan refugees' proof of registration cards until the end of 2016, one day before they were to expire. At a Tripartite Commission meeting in Islamabad on 19 July, the Governments of Afghanistan and Pakistan and the United Nations extended the tripartite agreement governing the repatriation of Afghan citizens in Pakistan. The three parties reiterated their commitment to finding sustainable solutions for Afghan refugees residing in Pakistan and their support for voluntary repatriation in conditions of safety and dignity.

54. Afghan migration to Europe continued at a slower pace as compared with 2015. Since the beginning of the year, 44,699 Afghans have arrived in Europe by sea, representing 17 per cent of arrivals, down from the June figure of 21 per cent. The International Organization for Migration assisted 4,527 voluntary returnees, of whom 79 per cent were men, from Europe between January and July, compared with 764 in the same period in 2015. Almost half the returnees had come from Germany, even though increasing numbers from Greece and Turkey were reported. Most

returned to Herat and Balkh provinces and the city of Kabul. Returnee numbers continued to increase during the second quarter of the year, with 2,639 returnees assisted, compared with 1,400 during the first quarter.

55. Efforts to eradicate polio, which remains endemic in Afghanistan, faced renewed access and security challenges. One new polio case was identified during the reporting period in Kunar Province, bringing the total number of new polio cases in Afghanistan in 2016 to six. The number of children who could not be vaccinated increased to 320,000 during the reporting period, up from 200,000 during the previous period. This includes an estimated 157,857 children in Kunduz Province, where active fighting was under way, and 76,284 in Nangarhar Province, where anti-Government elements prevented access. Quality monitoring of the vaccination campaigns in Farah, Helmand and Kandahar provinces remained limited because of insecurity, while threats of bans on vaccination campaigns continue in several key provinces, including Kandahar and Helmand.

56. Humanitarian access constraints continue to be recorded under the United Nations global monitoring frameworks, primarily associated with insecurity in the eastern, southern and northern parts of the country. In total, 45 incidents against non-governmental organizations, the United Nations and other international organizations were registered between 1 May and 31 July, compared with 75 for the first four months of the year. Five aid workers were killed and five injured during the period compared with five killed and ten injured during the previous period. Abductions for the year to date reflect 2015 trends, with 93 aid workers abducted during 2016. The period from 1 May to 31 July showed a sharp reduction, with 12 aid workers abducted compared with 81 during the first four months of 2016.

57. Mine action partners, coordinated by the United Nations, cleared 39 minefields, one battlefield and three firing ranges between 1 May and 31 July, with the result that 12 communities were declared mine-free. It is estimated that 4,005 minefields, 330 battlefield and 62 firing ranges remain, affecting 1,589 communities, along with a continued threat from pressure-plate improvised explosive devices.

58. As at 10 August, overall humanitarian funding for Afghanistan stood at $277 million, of which $122 million was designated for activities envisaged in the 2016 Afghanistan Humanitarian Response Plan and $157 million for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement. As at 10 August, the 2016 Plan was 31 per cent funded. The common humanitarian fund in Afghanistan has received $44.2 million to date in 2016, with funding focused on emergency health care, assistance to displaced families and humanitarian assessments. On 30 July, the United Nations humanitarian country team endorsed the strategic objectives developed by its Gender in Humanitarian Action Task Force on minimum standards of gender mainstreaming.

VI. Counter-narcotics

59. During the reporting period, the summer poppy crop harvest ended, with initial indications of an increase both in areas under cultivation and in opium production. In Helmand Province, the Taliban offensive increased significantly following the completion of the poppy harvest. Opium also continued to be a valuable source of insurgent funding. Eradication efforts in Afghanistan during the growing season

were the lowest reported in the last decade, due to security challenges, particularly in Helmand Province. Eight members of the Afghan security forces were killed and seven injured in the course of eradication operations.

60. Between 24 May and 17 August, Afghan law enforcement authorities conducted 325 counter-narcotics operations, resulting in the seizure of 375 kg of heroin, 267 kg of morphine, 2,163 kg of opium, 6.41 kg of methamphetamine, 487 kg of hashish, 2,341 kg of solid precursor chemicals and 1,628 litres of liquid precursor chemicals. In addition, 403 suspects were arrested and 63 vehicles, 53 weapons and 56 mobile telephones seized. One member of the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces was killed and one wounded in the course of those operations.

61. From 19 to 20 July, law enforcement officials from Afghanistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, the Central Asian Regional Information and Coordination Centre, the International Narcotics Control Board and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime met in Tashkent for the ninth session of the Regional Intelligence Working Group on Precursors to review recent developments on precursor trafficking and identify next steps. Participants emphasized the need for strengthened information-sharing through regional bodies, including the Coordination Centre. Participants also discussed extending membership to other regional bodies, including the Collective Security Treaty Organization and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization. They also agreed to further measures aimed at identifying and intercepting consignments of chemicals smuggled into the region for use in the illicit manufacture of heroin.

VII. Mission support

62. UNAMA completed the construction of its new premises in the city of Kunduz, including residential facilities and works to ensure compliance with minimum operating security standards. Redeployment of international staff to the city of Kunduz commenced on 8 August. Between 1 June and 31 July, UNAMA conducted 180 road and 140 air missions, as well as 350 reverse outreach missions during which district representatives visited UNAMA field offices.

VIII. Observations

63. In recent months, the Government has focused on addressing security and economic challenges, including steps toward countering corruption, as well as preparations for the critical forthcoming Brussels conference on Afghanistan. However, the political rifts in recent weeks have strained the unity of the Government. United, strong leadership will be essential in addressing the complex security, economic and development challenges that face the nation. I call on the country's leaders to demonstrate a spirit of cooperation and achieve meaningful agreement on the path forward, for the benefit of the people of Afghanistan.

64. A number of prominent Afghans have publicly voiced concern about the course being taken by the Government. I encourage them to adopt a more constructive engagement in this regard, in order to enhance and support the capacity

of the Government to implement effective reforms. I call upon all leaders to rise above their political differences and act in the interests of the nation.

65. This constructive approach is crucial in the face of an intensifying conflict. The security situation in Afghanistan remains complex, with persistently high levels of armed clashes and suicide attacks, including the attack of 23 July against a demonstration by ethnic Hazaras, claimed by ISIL-KP, which was the deadliest single incident recorded by the United Nations in Afghanistan since 2001. The increasing rates of civilian deaths and injuries, together with ongoing displacement, entail the continuous erosion of the human rights of women, men and children, in particular the rights to life and physical integrity, access to education and freedom of movement. I once again urge all parties to take action to mitigate the impact of conflict upon the population. The Taliban must uphold international humanitarian law. After the announcement of its national policy on civilian casualty mitigation and the accompanying action plan, it will be important for the Government to move forward with the implementation of the plan.

66. Despite progress in the development of a normative framework, insecurity and entrenched discrimination continued to block the full enjoyment of rights, particularly by women, resulting in violence and restrictions on their role in public life. The targeted attack against the Head of the Department of Women's Affairs in the city of Ghazni on 26 July by unknown assailants demonstrated the significant threats faced by prominent women working in public life.

67. The scope and intensity of the conflict and the need to provide key enablers to the Afghan security forces were recognized in the decisions at the above-mentioned NATO Summit to extend the presence of the Resolute Support Mission and on financing for the Afghan National Defence and Security Forces. The finalization of appointments for all security-related ministries is a welcome development. Continued efforts will be required to address the sustainability of the security sector and to address major issues of capacity, morale and internal cohesion. I continue to be concerned by any move to utilize irregular armed forces. A lack of accountability and oversight can do more harm than good, and risks undermining government legitimacy and the rule of law.

68. In advance of the forthcoming Brussels Conference, the Government has taken steps to strengthen institutions to counter corruption, which is crucial for the confidence of the Afghan population and donors. The first meeting of the High Council on Governance, Justice and Anti-Corruption and the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Justice Centre were important first steps toward greater accountability and increasing public trust. This is a systematic and complex undertaking which must follow due process. In the field of elections, there is a need to accelerate progress on reforms and preparations for upcoming electoral cycles.

69. The decision by the upper house of the National Assembly to reject the preventive detention article in the presidential decree of 2 September 2015 is a welcome development. It is hoped that the Government will also amend the provisions of the decree relating to the extension of the pretrial detention period to ensure compliance with the Constitution and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

70. Security and political stability will be a prerequisite for economic growth, in particular to expand opportunities in the agricultural sector. Economic growth will

also depend on the implementation of a legal and regulatory framework that encourages investment, private sector engagement and access to basic services. The consultations with civil society and the development of plans on the Citizen's Charter model in advance of the Brussels Conference are encouraging, in recognition of the crucial role of communities in achieving development outcomes. The meaningful participation of Afghan women in both preparing and implementing the Brussels agenda will be essential to its full realization.

71. 2016 has witnessed large numbers of people displaced as a result of conflict. I remain concerned about the capacity of the Government of Afghanistan to ensure their safety and welfare. If their needs are to be fully assessed and met, greater access, security and funding will be required. I urge all countries in the region and beyond to ensure that the return process for Afghan refugees is voluntary, safe and dignified, taking into consideration the current context of Afghanistan.

72. In the longer term, the support of countries in the region is essential for economic growth in Afghanistan, as well as for addressing issues of peace and security. The multiple infrastructure initiatives under way will boost prospects for trade and exchange and reflect common interests in future prosperity. Regional frameworks for ensuring stability and advancing dialogue have an important role to play. The reporting period has seen particular challenges in the relationship between Pakistan and Afghanistan. I urge the leadership of both countries to work together to overcome the difficulties and rebuild confidence. I support outreach under the Heart of Asia-Istanbul Process to build collaboration in countering the threat of transnational terrorism, whose defeat requires a coordinated, regional approach.

73. The overriding imperative remains peace. I regret that the Taliban did not accept the call by the President in his Ramadan statement to join a peace process. The United Nations continues to engage with all parties and stands ready to provide support. Creating conditions conducive for peace will require a determined and unified Afghan leadership. I encourage Member States to facilitate stability in Afghanistan, including the exercise of such influence as may be possible on the Taliban, to help lay the groundwork for direct talks with the Government.

74. I thank all the United Nations personnel in Afghanistan and my Special Representative, Tadamichi Yamamoto, for their continued dedication under challenging conditions to fulfil our commitments in support of the people of Afghanistan.

United Nations A/71/617

General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 November 2016

Original: English

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 8
General debate

Letter dated 16 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government and with reference to the note verbale dated 27 October 2016 from the Permanent Mission of the United Arab Emirates to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General (A/71/581) and its enclosure, I have the honour to state the following:

1. The signatories of the letter accused Iran baselessly, as usual, of pursuing "expansionist regional policies" and claimed, equally baselessly, that Iran's Constitution "calls for export of revolution to other countries". To give an example of expansionist policy, let me refer to the incitement and full support of most signatories of the letter to Saddam Hussein's invasion of Iran by all possible military and financial means. In addition, it is absurd and hypocritical for the officials of some countries whose fighter jets are bombing innocent civilians in Yemen to accuse Iran of interfering in the domestic affairs of other countries.

2. By accusing Iran of sponsoring terrorism without a shred of evidence, the signatories of the letter are imitating in a childish way a baseless accusation against Iran by a power, sidestepping the fact that that accusation stems exclusively from Iran's support for the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. It is also farcical to witness a few regimes who have been exporting a host of extremist, takfiri ideologies for decades and funding and arming terrorists in Iraq and Syria and in many other places, to accuse Iran of sponsoring terrorism.

3. The accusation against the Islamic Republic of Iran of interfering in Yemen, again without a shred of evidence, is as baseless as the other accusations. Some of the signatories of the letter know much better how effectively they have imposed a siege on Yemen and its people, much like the one imposed on Gaza, and how effectively they are bringing devastation to an already impoverished people. It is then farcical that they accuse Iran of supporting "the Houthis in Yemen financially, strategically and militarily, by training Houthi fighters and sending shipments of weapons and ammunitions into the country". Isn't it really farcical?

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4. Accusing Iran of interfering into Bahrain's domestic affairs is another obvious lie. Suffice it just to remind the signatories of the report of the Bahrain Independent Commission of Inquiry, set up by the Bahraini Government, known also as the Bassiouni report, which reads in part: "The evidence presented to the Commission by the Government of Bahrain on the involvement by Iran in the internal affairs of Bahrain does not establish a discernable link between specific incidents that occurred in Bahrain and Iran." This should be enough to discredit any claim of Iranian intervention in any country.

5. With regard to Iran's military advisory assistance to the Syrian Arab Republic, I would like to recall that this assistance is provided on the basis of the request by the legitimate Government of the Syrian Arab Republic. This request is in full conformity with international law and the right of self-defence as stipulated in Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. It is becoming further clear that if it were not for our support and the support of others for the legitimate Syrian Government, the bands of criminals, motivated by the takfiri ideology and organized, armed, funded and logistically supported by some of the signatories of the letter, would have by now planted their black flags everywhere in Syria and in some other parts of the Middle East, including on the soil of some of the signatories of the letter.

6. This letter also accuses Iran of politicizing the Mena disaster in September 2015, in which the precious lives of around 500 Iranian pilgrims and many more from other countries perished. We have always hoped that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia would at some point adopt a responsible approach to this disaster — sadly they have not. We note, with concern, that any findings from the local investigation on the tragedy, if any, are yet to be released. Our legitimate request for a thorough, transparent and independent investigation on the causes of this tragedy through a committee in which the representatives of the affected countries could participate has so far fallen on deaf ears. We expect that minimum international standards be followed to enhance the management of the Hajj pilgrimage in a way to avoid repeated deadly accidents and to take effective actions to redress the situation. Could these fair and straightforward requests be really considered as "politicizing" the case?

7. On the unilateral claim by the United Arab Emirates over the Iranian islands of Abu Musa, Lesser Tunb and Greater Tunb, the Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates its consistent and principled position that it does not recognize the existence of any such dispute between Iran and the United Arab Emirates; the three islands have been an inseparable part of Iranian territory and, therefore, any claim to the contrary is categorically rejected. Nonetheless, and to show its utmost respect for the principle of good neighbourliness, Iran has always expressed its readiness to talk with the United Arab Emirates bilaterally with a view to removing any misunderstanding that may exist on the part of the United Arab Emirates over Abu Musa Island.

8. As to the correct name of the body of water between Iran and the Arabian Peninsula, we recall that the traditional term "Persian Gulf" has been the correct appellation for this body of water from around 500 years before Christ and will remain so forever. It is a standardized geographical term, recognized by the

international community, including the United Nations, and should not be tinkered with due to political projects and daily wishes of this or that ruler.

9. Last but not least, we have always endeavoured towards the removal of tension in our region and developing friendly and good-neighbourly relationships with our neighbours, including those in the Persian Gulf. We have always reiterated our interest in and called for dialogue with a view to dispelling misunderstandings and restoring friendly relations that our peoples mostly enjoyed throughout history.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated to all States Members of the United Nations as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 8.

(*Signed*) Gholamali **Khoshroo**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

United Nations A/71/618–S/2016/979

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
18 November 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda items 32 and 37

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 17 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey herewith the records of the violations of the ceasefire by the Republic of Armenia in September 2016 (see annex).* During the reporting period, Armenia violated the ceasefire regime 459 times and continued the usage of large-calibre guns and heavy weaponry from its positions in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan and from its own territory.

The continuous occupation of a large part of the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia remains the main obstacle to the settlement of the conflict and the only source of the escalation of the situation on the frontline and of occurrences of hostilities and casualties.

The sooner the Republic of Armenia withdraws its troops from the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the sooner peace and stability can be restored in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 32 and 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar T. **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

16-20490 (E) 221116

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Annex to the letter dated 17 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia for September 2016*

Date (week)	Direction (location)	Weapons used	Number of ceasefire violations	Casualties and damage
1-8 September	Borsunlu village (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	1	
	Talysh and Tapgaragoyunlu villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Tapgaragoyunlu village (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PKM	2	
	Talysh and Yenikand villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	PKM/AK	3	
	Talysh and Zeyva villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	DShK	4	
	Unnamed heights of Goranboy district, Azerbaijan	DShK/AKM	4	
	Garagashly village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PKM	5	
	Javahirli village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	PKM	1	
	Kosalar and Ahmadaly villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PKM	2	
	Merzili and Tazakend villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Merzili village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	PKM/AK	7	
	Novruzlu village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	2	
	Saryjaly village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK/SVD	2	
	Yusifjanly and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	2	
	Chayly village (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PKM/DShK	16	
	Jerabert and Karmiravan villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK/AKM	4	
	Seysulan and Gapanli villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PKM	4	
	Unnamed heights of Tartar district, Azerbaijan	AK	1	
	Kutopatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	8	

Abbreviations: AK, Kalashnikov assault rifle; AKM, modernized Kalashnikov assault rifle; DShK, heavy machine gun; F-1, hand grenade; NSVP, 12.7 mm machine gun; PKM, modernized Kalashnikov machine gun; RGD-5, hand grenade; ROP, flare; ROV, remotely operated vehicle; RPG, handheld anti-tank grenade launcher; RPG-7V, handheld anti-tank grenade launcher; SVD, sniper rifle.

* Settlements of the Republic of Azerbaijan included in this information are under occupation by the Republic of Armenia or situated close to the fire point areas.

Date (week)	Direction (locality)	Weapons used	Number of ceasefire violations	Casualties and damage
	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alykhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	8	
	Ashaghy Veysalli village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	PKM	4	
	Garakhanbeyli village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PKM	13	
	Gazakhlar village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Garvand village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	PKM	1	
	Horadiz village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PKM/ROV	8	
	Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	12	
	Nuzgar village and Lala Ilahy heights (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Unnamed heights of Fizuli district, Azerbaijan	AK	2	
	Chakhyrly village (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Mehdili and Jujug Marjanly villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK/ROV	4	
	Unnamed heights of Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan	AK	2	
	Bala Jafarli village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	1	
	Farahli village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	PKM	1	
	Gaymagly village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PKM	3	
	Gushchu Ayrum village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	1	
	Kemerli village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PKM	2	
	Shikhly village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	PKM	1	
	Aghbulag village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK	3	
	Hajialyly village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Kiran village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	3	
	Unnamed heights of Gazakh district, Azerbaijan	AKM	1	
	Unnamed heights of Goygol district, Azerbaijan	AKM	1	
	Unnamed heights of Gedebey district, Azerbaijan	AK/PKM/T-12 RGD-5	8	
9-17 September	Gulustan village (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	DShK/AK	4	
	Unnamed heights of Goranboy district, Azerbaijan	PKM/AKM	7	
	Borsunlu village (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Javahirli and Ahmadaghali villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	4	
	Saryjaly village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK/DShK	2	
	Shykhlar and Bash Garvand villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Chayly village (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK	2	
	Jerabert and Karmiravan villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK/AKM/PKM	4	

Date (week)	Direction (locality)	Weapons used	Number of ceasefire violations	Casualties and damage
	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PKM	4	
	Unnamed heights of Khojavand district, Azerbaijan	AK	5	
	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Shukurbayli villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AKM/AK	2	
	Gorgan village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Horadiz village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	2	
	Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK/RPG	9	
	Korgan and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Lala Ilahi heights of Fizuli district, Azerbaijan	AK	1	
	Unnamed heights of Fizuli district, Azerbaijan	AK	1	
	Unnamed heights of Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan	AK	1	
	Bala Jafarli village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	1	
	Gyzylhajyly village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Musakoy village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	PKM	2	
	Hajialili village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	1	
	Kokhanabi village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK/AKM	3	
	Kosha village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Mancuglu village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK	6	
	Unnamed heights of Gedebey district, Azerbaijan	AK/AKM/DShK	5	
18-26 September	Gulustan village (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	DShK/AKM	2	
	Borsunlu village (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Talysh and Tapgaragoyunlu villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	PKM/AKM	9	
	Yenikand village (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	PKM/DShK	2	
	Unnamed heights of Goranboy district, Azerbaijan	PKM/AK/RPG/DShK	17	
	Bash Garvand and Mirashelli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PKM/RPG	3	
	Garagashly village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK/AKM	2	
	Merzili village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Saryjaly village (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	2	
	Yusifjanly and Giyamaddinli villages (Aghdam district, Azerbaijan)	AK	2	
	Borsunlu village (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Chayly village (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PKM/RPG	8	
	Jerabert and Karmiravan villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	DShK/AK/ROP 30 mm	4	

Date (week)	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Number of ceasefire violations*	*Casualties and damage*
	Levonarkh village (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Seysulan and Gapanli villages (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	SVD/PKM/AK	4	
	Unnamed heights of Tartar district, Azerbaijan	AK	1	
	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK/RPG/PKM	11	
	Unnamed heights of Khojavand district, Azerbaijan	PKM	1	
	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alykhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Garakhanbeyli village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK/AKM	3	
	Horadiz village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK	4	
	Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly village (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	AK/DShK	4	
	Lala Ilahi and unnamed heights of Fizuli district, Azerbaijan	AKM	3	
	Nuzgar and Gazakhlar villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK	2	
	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanly villages (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AKM/AK	3	
	Unnamed heights of Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan	RPG	6	
	Bala Jafarli village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	PKM	2	
	Gaymagly village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	RPG	1	
	Kemerli village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	DShK	1	
	Alibayli village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	2	
	Kosha village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	2	
	Unnamed heights of Tovuz district, Azerbaijan	AKM	3	
	Kohna Gyshlag village (Aghstafa district, Azerbaijan)	PKM	2	
	Unnamed heights of Gazakh district, Azerbaijan	AKM/AK	4	
	Unnamed heights of Goygol district, Azerbaijan	NSVP/PKM/AK/RGP	6	
	Unnamed heights of Gedebey district, Azerbaijan	PKM/AKM	8	
	Shinkh village (Gedebey district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PKM	3	
	Dordlar village (Gedebey district, Azerbaijan)	DShK/AKM	2	
	Zamanli village (Gedebey district, Azerbaijan)	DShK/PKM	3	
	Gyamaddinly village (Aghjabadi district, Azerbaijan)	AK/PKM	2	
27–30 September	Tapgaragoyunlu village (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	1	
	Talysh and Damirchi villages (Goranboy district, Azerbaijan)	DShK/AKM	2	
	Unnamed heights of Goranboy district, Azerbaijan	DShK/AKM	10	
	Unnamed heights of Aghdam district, Azerbaijan	AK	1	
	Chayly village (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK/AKM/PKM	2	

Date (week)	*Direction (location)*	*Weapons used*	*Number of ceasefire violations*	*Casualties and damage*
	Karmiravan village (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Levonarkh village (Tartar district, Azerbaijan)	AKM	1	
	Unnamed heights of Tartar district, Azerbaijan	AK	1	
	Kuropatkino village (Khojavand district, Azerbaijan)	AK/SVD/DShK	3	
	Unnamed heights of Khojavand district, Azerbaijan	AK/SVD	4	
	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alykhanly villages (Fizuli district, Azerbaijan)	SVD	2	
	Unnamed heights of Fizuli district, Azerbaijan	SVD	1	
	Bala Jafarli village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	PKM	1	
	Gaymagly village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	PKM/DShK	5	
	Musakoy village (Gazakh district, Azerbaijan)	PKM	1	
	Mehdili village (Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Aghbulag village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK/AKM	2	
	Kemerli village (Tovuz district, Azerbaijan)	AK	1	
	Unnamed heights of Gazakh district, Azerbaijan	AKM	2	
	Unnamed heights of Gedebey district, Azerbaijan	AKM	1	

United Nations A/71/619–S/2016/980

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
18 November 2016

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda items 32 and 37

Security Council
Seventy-first year

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Letter dated 17 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey herewith the records of violations of the ceasefire by the Republic of Armenia in October 2016 (see annex) *. During the reporting period, Armenia has violated the ceasefire regime 596 times and continued the usage of large-calibre guns and heavy weaponry from its positions in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan and from its own territory.

The continuous occupation of a large part of the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the armed forces of Armenia remains the main obstacle in the settlement of the conflict and the only source of the escalation of situation on the front line and the occurrence of hostilities and casualties.

The sooner the Republic of Armenia withdraws its troops from the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the sooner peace and stability can be restored in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 32 and 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* The annex is being circulated in the language of submission only.

16-20492 (E) 231116

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 17 November 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia for October 2016*

Dates	Direction (location)	Weapons used	Number of ceasefire violations	Casualties and damage
1-8 October	**Agham district, Azerbaijan**			
	Mezrili village	AK, AKM	2	
	Yusifjanly and Giyamaddinli villages	AKM	1	
	Beylagan district, Azerbaijan			
	Garadaghly village	AK, AKM	2	
	Fizuli district, Azerbaijan			
	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Atykhanly villages	AK	1	
	Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly village	AK	1	
	Ashaghy Veysalli village	AK, AKM	2	
	Garakhanbeyli village	AK	1	
	Korgan and Kurdlar — Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages	AK	3	
	Lala Ilahy heights	AK	2	
	Unnamed heights	AKM, AK	10	
	Gazakh district, Azerbaijan			
	Bala Jafarli village	AK, AKM	2	
	Gaymagly village	AKM, AK/DShK	10	
	Kemerli village	AK	2	
	Goranboy district, Azerbaijan			
	Gulustan village	AK, AKM	2	
	Tapgaragoyunlu village	AKM, AK	6	
	Unnamed heights	AK/DShK/AKM/60mm M	12	
	Goygol district, Azerbaijan			
	Unnamed heights	AK	2	
	Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan			
	Chakhirly village	AK, AKM	3	
	Mehdili village	AK	6	

Abbreviations: AGS, automatic grenade launcher, mounted; AK, Kalashnikov assault rifle; AKM, modernized Kalashnikov assault rifle; DShK, heavy machine gun; F-1, hand grenade; MT, mine thrower; NVSP, 12.7 mm machine gun; OSV-96, semi-automatic sniper rifle; PKM, modernized Kalashnikov machine gun; ROP, rocket flares; RPG, handheld anti-tank grenade launcher; SVD, sniper rifle; 60mm M, mortar

* Settlements of the Republic of Azerbaijan included in this information are under occupation by the Republic of Armenia or situated close to the fire point areas

Dates	Direction (locality)	Weapons used	Number of ceasefire violations	Casualties and damage
	Khojavand district, Azerbaijan			
	Kuropatkino village	AK, AKM	6	
	Unnamed heights	AK	5	
	Tartar district, Azerbaijan			
	Chayly village	AK	8	
	Jerabert and Karmiravan villages	AK	7	
	Seysulan and Gapanli villages	AK, AKM	4	
	Unnamed heights	AK, AKM	10	
	Yarimja village	AK	1	
9-17 October	**Aghdam district, Azerbaijan**			
	Ahmadaghali village	AK	1	
	Bash Garvand village	AK	1	
	Garagashli and Chamanli villages	AK	6	
	Javahirli and Ahmadaghali villages	AK	1	
	Saryjaly village	AK	1	
	Agstafa district, Azerbaijan			
	Kohna Gyshlag village	AK, AKM	4	
	Fizuli district, Azerbaijan			
	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alkhanli villages	AK	6	
	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages	AK	2	
	Horadiz village	AK	5	
	Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly village	AK, AKM	4	
	Lala Ilahi heights	AKM	1	
	Unnamed heights	AK, AKM	4	
	Gazakh district, Azerbaijan			
	Ashagi Askipara village	AK	1	
	Bala Jafarli village	AK	1	
	Gaymagli village	AKM	1	
	Kemerli village	AK	1	
	Unnamed heights	AKM, AK	2	
	Gedebey district, Azerbaijan			
	Borsunlu village	AK	2	
	Unnamed heights	PKM, AKM, DShK	5	
	Goranboy district, Azerbaijan			
	Gulustan village	AKM	2	
	Borsunlu village	AK	1	
	Tapgaragoyunlu village	AK, DShK	10	
	Unnamed heights	AK, DShK	13	

Date	Direction (location)	Weapon used	Number of casualties (civilians)	Casualties and damage
	Goygol district, Azerbaijan			
	Unnamed heights	AK, AKM		2
	Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan			
	Mehdili village	AK		1
	Unnamed heights	AK		12
	Lala Habi heights	AK		1
	Khojavand district, Azerbaijan			
	Kotopatkino village	AK		1
	Unnamed heights	AKM, DShK		2
	Tartar district, Azerbaijan			
	Chayly village	AK		7
	Jetaberi village	AK, AKM		3
	Levonarkh village	AK, AKM		x
	Seyyolan and Gapanli villages	AK, AKM		6
	Unnamed heights	AK, AKM		6
	Tovuz district, Azerbaijan			
	Kokhanabi village	AKM		2
18-26 October	**Aghdam district, Azerbaijan**			
	Bash Garvand village	AKM		1
	Bash Garvand and Mirzahelli villages	AK		1
	Garagashli and Chamanli villages	AK		1
	Chiragli and Javahirli villages	AK		1
	Saryjaly and Goylapa villages	AK		3
	Shurabad village	AK		1
	Shykhlar village	AK		3
	Shirvanli village	AK		1
	Orta Garvand and Shikhlar villages	AK		2
	Yusifjanli and Giyamaddinli villages	AK		1
	Agstafa district, Azerbaijan			
	Kohna Gyshlag village			
	Fizuli district, Azerbaijan			
	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alkhanli villages	AK		2
	Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly village	AK		1
	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages	AK		x
	Garvand and Garakhanbeyli villages	AK		1
	Horadiz village	AK		9
	Korgan and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages	DShK, AK		x
	Kurdlar and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages	AK		1

Dates	Direction (location)	Weapons used	Number of casualties (combatants)	Comments (including damage)
	Unnamed heights	AK, AKM	9	
	Gazakh district, Azerbaijan			
	Bala Jafarli village	[illegible]	1	
	Dash Salahli village	DShK	1	
	Farukh village	AKM	1	
	Gaymagli village	DShK	2	
	Geyrat Hajili village	AK	1	
	Gushchu Ayrum village	AK	2	
	Kemerli village	AK, AKM	4	
	Gedebey district, Azerbaijan			
	Bashkand village	AK	2	
	Unnamed heights	AK, AKM	2	
	Goranboy district, Azerbaijan			
	Gulustan village	AKM, DShK	2	
	Borsunlu village	AK	2	
	Tapgaragoyunlu village	AK	8	
	Unnamed heights	AKM, DShK	[illegible]	
	Goygol district, Azerbaijan			
	Unnamed heights	AK, DShK	3	
	Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan			
	Mehdili village	AK	[illegible]	
	Juvag Maryanli village	AK	3	
	Unnamed heights	AK	7	
	Lala Bahi heights	AK	4	
	Khojavand district, Azerbaijan			
	Kuropatkino village	AKM, AK	2	
	Tartar district, Azerbaijan			
	Borsunlu village	AK	1	
	Chayly village	AK	[illegible]	
	Ismabert village	AK, AKM	10	
	Karmuravan village	AK	4	
	Nermili and Guzyan villages	AK	1	
	Seysulan and Gapanli villages	AK	2	
	Unnamed heights	AK	[illegible]	
27-31 October	**Aghdam district, Azerbaijan**			
	Ahmadaghali village	AK	1	
	Chiragli and Javahirli villages	AK	1	
	Satyialy and Goytapa villages	AK	1	

Date	Location (locality)	Weapons used	Number of casualties/ casualties and damage
	Shirvanli village	AK	1
	Agstafa district, Azerbaijan		
	Kohna Gyshlag village	AK	1
	Fizuli district, Azerbaijan		
	Ashaghy Seyidahmedli and Alkhanli villages	AK	4
	Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly village	AK	1
	Yukhari Abdurrahmanly and Shukurbayli villages	AK PKM	4
	Garashanbeyli and Alkhanly villages	AK PKM	7
	Horadiz village	AK PKM	6
	Korgan and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages	AK	4
	Korgan and Shukurbayli villages	AK AKM PKM	5
	Kurdlar and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages	AK	1
	Unnamed heights	AK	3
	Gazakh district, Azerbaijan		
	Bala Jafarli village	PKM AK	3
	Gavmagli village	AK RPG	2
	Gushchu Ayrum village	PKM AKM	7
	Unnamed heights	AK	1
	Gedebey district, Azerbaijan		
	Zamanli village	AKM PKM	2
	Unnamed heights	PKM AK	2
	Goranboy district, Azerbaijan		
	Borsunlu village	AK AKM	3
	Talysh and Yenikand villages	PKM AK AKM	5
	Talysh and Seyidmli villages	AK AKM PKM	6
	Tapgaragoyunlu village	AK AKM PKM LAG ROP	43
	Unnamed heights	AK AKM	10
	Goygol district, Azerbaijan		
	Unnamed heights	DShK PKM AK	1
	Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan		
	Chakhyrli village	AK AKM	2
	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanli villages	AK AKM	5
	Unnamed heights	AK	3
	Lala Ilahi heights	AK	1
	Khojavand district, Azerbaijan		
	Kuropatkino and Minakhorlu villages	AK	2
	Tartar district, Azerbaijan		
	Borsunlu village	AKM AK	4

Dates	*Direction (location)*	*Weapons used*	*Number of casualties (civilians)*	*Casualties and damage*
	Chayly village	AK, AKM, PKM	12	
	Chamanli village	AK, AKM	4	
	Jerabert and Karmiravan villages	NSVP, AKM, SVD	11	
	Hasangaya village	AKM, AK	4	
	Levonarkh village	AK, AKM	2	
	Seysulan and Gapanli villages	AK	2	
	Unnamed heights	AK	1	
	Tovuz district, Azerbaijan			
	Asryk Jirdakhan village	AK, PKM	2	
	Unnamed heights	AKM, AK	2	
	Kokhanabi village	AKM, AK	4	
	Munjuglu village	NSVP	1	

United Nations A/71/620*

General Assembly

Distr.: General
25 November 2016

Original: English

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 69 (c)
Strengthening of the coordination of humanitarian and disaster relief assistance of the United Nations, including special economic assistance: special economic assistance to individual countries or regions

A new approach to cholera in Haiti

Report by the Secretary-General

Summary

On 19 August 2016, the Secretary-General announced a new approach by the United Nations to cholera in Haiti. In his accompanying public statement, he indicated that he deeply regrets the terrible suffering the people of Haiti have endured as a result of the cholera epidemic and that the United Nations has a moral responsibility to the victims of the cholera epidemic and to support Haiti in overcoming the epidemic and building sound water, sanitation and health systems. He stressed that eliminating cholera from Haiti will take the full commitment of the Haitian Government and the international community and, crucially, the resources to fulfil this shared duty.

The new approach has two tracks. Track 1 involves intensifying the Organization's support in order to reduce and ultimately end the transmission of cholera, improve access to care and treatment and address the longer-term issues of water, sanitation and health systems in Haiti. Track 2 involves developing a package that will provide material assistance and support to those Haitians most directly affected by cholera. These efforts must include, as a central focus, the victims of the disease and their families. The Secretary-General urged Member States to demonstrate their solidarity with the people of Haiti by increasing their contributions to eliminate cholera and provide assistance to those affected.

* Reissued for technical reasons on 1 December 2016.

16-20491* (E) 011216

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The new approach was rendered more challenging by Hurricane Matthew, which struck Haiti on 4 October 2016, causing immense devastation, loss of life and thousands of new cases of suspected cholera.

The present report provides information on Tracks 1 and 2 of the new approach, identifies challenges in connection with its implementation and sets out a proposed timeline.

The Secretary-General hopes that he can count on the support of Member States.

I. Introduction

1. The United Nations new approach is intended to intensify efforts to eliminate cholera from Haiti and assist and support those most directly affected. Cholera broke out in October 2010, only nine months after an earthquake had devastated the country. The country was ill-prepared to face this additional blow. Only one quarter of the population has access to decent toilets and one half to clean water, making it the country with the poorest water and sanitation infrastructure in the western hemisphere. Cholera has, to date, afflicted nearly 800,000 people and may have caused over 9,000 deaths.[1] Concerted international and Haitian efforts since the outbreak have resulted in a drastic reduction in the number of suspected cholera cases and deaths. The overall incidence of the disease has been reduced by approximately 90 per cent since its peak in 2011. However, cholera continues to take a heavy toll on the lives of Haitian people, and Haiti still reports the highest number of cholera cases in the world. The deterioration in the capacity to respond to and treat cholera due to reduced funding, the rainy season and Hurricane Matthew, which destroyed much of the southwest of the country, has contributed to increased risk and an increase in reported cases of suspected cholera.

2. Over the ensuing years, a variety of initiatives have been undertaken to mobilize the necessary resources and interventions for the elimination of the disease from the country. The Secretary-General has visited Haiti to assess the situation and to demonstrate his solidarity with the people. However, the measures taken were not enough to eliminate the disease, or to prevent a shadow being cast upon the relationship between the Organization and the people of Haiti.

3. For decades, the United Nations has stood by the Haitian people, supporting them in their quest for democracy, human rights and the strengthening of their institutions and helping to rebuild the nation after the earthquake. Globally, the Organization endeavours to deploy responsible peace operations that operate at minimum risk to people, societies and ecosystems. This is vital to the legitimacy and credibility of the United Nations and its global peace operations. The cholera outbreak became a stain on the Organization's reputation.

4. It was for those reasons — for the sake of not only the Haitian people, but also the Organization, and in particular to protect the integrity of its peace operations in the future — that the Secretary-General became convinced of the need to do more. He wishes to propose a solution, not leave an unresolved problem, for his successor. These reasons informed his announcement, on 19 August 2016, of a new approach to cholera in Haiti. The new approach represents an act of good faith and a genuine effort to concretely demonstrate deep regret for the suffering of Haitians as a result of the cholera epidemic. The Secretary-General will elaborate further on this issue when he addresses the General Assembly on 1 December 2016.

5. The United Nations new approach has two tracks. Track 1 consists of a greatly intensified and better resourced effort to respond to and reduce the incidence of cholera in Haiti. The aim is to address the short- and longer-term issues of water, sanitation and health systems and to significantly improve access to care and treatment. Those steps, in addition to eliminating cholera in the long term, are

[1] Figures are from the Ministry of Public Health and Population of Haiti.

essential to the achievement of many of the Sustainable Development Goals in Haiti, especially Sustainable Development Goal 6, ensuring availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

6. Track 2 is the development of a package of material assistance and support to those Haitians most directly affected by cholera, centred on the victims and their families and communities. Affected individuals and communities will participate in the development of the package. This will inevitably be an imperfect exercise, fraught with practical and moral hazards, and it has been complicated by the impact of Hurricane Matthew. The package is not likely to fully satisfy all those who have been calling for such a step, nor will it happen overnight. However, the Secretary-General has concluded that it is better to take this step than not to. It represents a concrete and sincere expression of the Organization's regret for the fact that the people of Haiti suffered yet another blow when they had already suffered more than they should have to endure.

7. Eliminating cholera from Haiti and living up to our moral duty to those who have been most directly affected will require the full commitment of the international community and, crucially, the resources necessary to deliver on both Tracks. Just as peace operations are a collective endeavour by Member States, United Nations entities and partners outside the United Nations, so too is a lasting solution to the problem of cholera in Haiti. This is not an endeavour that the Secretariat or even the United Nations system can shoulder alone. The new approach outlined in the present report has been developed in this spirit.

8. The people of Haiti deserve this tangible expression of our respect and solidarity, as well as our regret, and the genuine support that comes with it. The United Nations should seize this opportunity to address this tragedy, which has also had a negative effect on its reputation and global mission.

9. At the strategic level, the Secretary-General has appointed David Nabarro to lead the new approach by the United Nations and Ross Mountain to lead Track 2.

II. Overview: cholera in Haiti

10. Haiti is the poorest country in the western hemisphere. It has been beset by humanitarian crises, recurrent waves of violence and structural socioeconomic challenges, including endemic poverty, chronic malnutrition, weak health systems, low literacy rates and limited access to clean water, sanitation and other basic services. The earthquake of January 2010 is estimated to have caused 222,570 deaths, displaced millions and caused immense damage to the economy, and its effects are still felt today.

11. The first case of suspected cholera was reported on 21 October 2010 in the Artibonite Department. Cholera causes severe, acute, dehydrating diarrhoea that can kill children and adults in less than 12 hours. It is the result of infection by a pathogenic strain of the bacterium *Vibrio cholerae*, which is capable of producing a potent toxin known as cholera toxin. Depending on the severity of the infection, cholera may be treated with oral rehydration salts, intravenous fluids and/or antibiotics. The case fatality rate in a well-managed cholera outbreak should be less than 1 per cent.

12. Within 29 days of the first case reported, cases were confirmed in all 10 administrative departments in Haiti. Within three months of the first case reported, there was a downward trend in mortality, with a 14-day case fatality rate of 1 per cent or less in most areas. Overall, the cholera outbreak in Haiti accounted for 57 per cent of all cholera cases and 53 per cent of all cholera deaths officially reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) worldwide in 2010 and 58 per cent of all cholera cases and 37 per cent of all cholera deaths reported in 2011.

13. The table below illustrates the incidence of suspected cholera cases in Haiti between the beginning of October 2010 and 18 October 2016. The peak of the epidemic was in late 2010 and 2011, as demonstrated by the numbers of suspected cholera cases and deaths. Following an active response by national authorities and partners, the number of cases was reduced by 90 per cent. The impact of Hurricane Matthew shows the continued vulnerability of the population to the disease, which is preventable and treatable. The hurricane, combined with the rainy season, has contributed to a significant increase in the number of suspected cholera cases per month in the country, from just over 2,000 in September to nearly 6,000 in early November.

Table

Incidence of suspected cholera cases between the beginning of October 2010 and 18 October 2016

Year	Suspected cholera cases	Deaths	Incidence rate (per 1,000 inhabitants)	Mortality rate (per 1,000 inhabitants)
2010 (1 October-December)	185 351	3 951	18.36	2.43
2011	351 839	2 918	34.85	1.04
2012	101 503	908	9.73	0.56
2013	58 574	583	5.67	1.09
2014	29 078	267	2.71	1.01
2015	36 045	322	3.00	0.75
2016 (1 January-18 October)	32 240	330	2.93	0.88
Total	**794 630**	**9 307**		

Source: Ministry of Public Health and Population of Haiti.

14. The Secretary-General made support to the Haitian Government to eliminate cholera a key United Nations priority. From the outset of the epidemic, the United Nations family devoted considerable human and financial resources to the fight against cholera, guided by the priorities of the Government of Haiti. Much was done

Ezra J. Barzilay, Nicolas Schaad, Roc Magloire, Kam S. Mung, Jacques Boncy, Georges A. Dahourou, Eric D. Mintz, Marta W. Steenland, John F. Vertefeuille and Jordan W. Tappero, "Cholera surveillance during the Haiti epidemic — the first 2 years", *The New England Journal of Medicine*, vol. 368, No. 7, p. 599.

According to WHO and the Pan American Health Organization, the figure increased from 2,377 in September to 5,840 on 5 November 2016, with the Grand-Anse and Sud departments most affected.

by the United Nations in the initial years after the outbreak to support national efforts to combat cholera in Haiti. Initiatives include the establishment of an early warning and alert system and a mechanism to rapidly respond to an alert within 48 hours, sensitization campaigns, household visits and activities to increase access to clean water and improve overall sanitation and hygiene.[4]

15. To underline his support for those efforts, on 11 December 2012, the Secretary-General launched his own initiative to support the Initiative for the Elimination of Cholera in the Island of Hispaniola, established by the Presidents of Haiti and the Dominican Republic almost a year earlier. The initiative was focused on investment in prevention, treatment and education. At its launch, the Secretary-General also announced that Paul Farmer would serve as his Special Advisor on Community-Based Medicine and Lessons from Haiti to help galvanize support for the elimination of cholera in Haiti.

16. In February 2013, the Government launched its National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera in Haiti, a 10-year strategic plan outlining health, water and sanitation activities necessary to eliminate cholera and other such diseases. The Government also developed a two-year operational component for the Plan. The Plan was designed to focus on the long-term elimination of the disease through a large-scale development of public health, water and sanitation infrastructure. However, there has been limited progress on infrastructure development to date. To emphasize his support for those efforts, in August 2013, the Secretary-General appointed Pedro Medrano Rojas as his Senior Coordinator for the Cholera Response in Haiti, based in New York, to optimize United Nations resources and support the National Plan. Mr. Medrano held the position for a period of nearly two years.

17. During the same period, United Nations partners working alongside the Government of Haiti undertook significant efforts to provide care and treatment to cholera-affected patients and to work to prevent the further spread of the disease. United Nations agencies, including WHO — together with the Pan American Health Organization — the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and others, worked closely with the Haitian Ministry of Public Health and Population and the National Directorate of Water Supply and Sanitation to ensure a rapid response to cholera outbreaks and to reduce transmission throughout the country. United Nations agencies provided significant support to national partners and authorities in supporting the key components of the Government's National Plan.[5] In 2012, the Ministry of Public Health and Population, together with non-governmental organization partners, conducted the first-ever vaccination campaign in Haiti, targeting 100,000 people. The following year, the Ministry of Public Health and Population, with the support of the international community, including United Nations agencies, undertook a campaign to begin vaccinating more than 400,000 Haitians. This targeted vaccination campaign, now in its third year, is an important preventive measure when used alongside targeted clean water and sanitation interventions.

18. Efforts on the ground also focused on increasing access to clean water and decent sanitation. In July 2014, during a visit to Haiti, the Secretary-General and the

[5] United Nations Support Plan for the Elimination of the Transmission of Cholera in Haiti (January 2014).

Prime Minister launched the National Sanitation Campaign, which, with support from UNICEF, is aimed at raising sanitation standards and improving health conditions, benefiting 3.8 million people. During that visit, the Secretary-General also met with communities and people affected by cholera and expressed his anguish at the pain they had to endure. He reiterated his belief that the United Nations has a moral responsibility to the victims of the cholera epidemic and to support Haiti in overcoming the epidemic and building sound water, sanitation and health systems.

19. Despite all those efforts, critical challenges remained to effectively respond to and limit the spread of cholera. Efforts were beset from the start by the challenge of insufficient funding, which has had a dramatic negative impact on the capacity to respond effectively to the disease.

20. In all its efforts, the United Nations family was guided by the priorities of the Government of Haiti. The United Nations country team and the Government of Haiti worked side by side for the elimination of cholera, and United Nations support to the Government of Haiti was fully aligned with national objectives. In April 2014, the Secretary-General, together with the Government, established a joint High-level Committee on Cholera to ensure the implementation of a common strategy for the elimination of cholera in Haiti and the provision of social and economic assistance to affected communities, with special emphasis on persons affected by the disease. The Committee was unable to make much progress, and in early 2016 there were worrying signs that the downward trend in cholera cases was spiking upwards again. This was due to several factors, prominent among them the lack of funding, which had an impact on even the most critical activities relating to rapid response. The Government prepared a new medium-term plan of action for 2016-2018, which prioritized the most urgent and critical activities needed to control, and ultimately eliminate, cholera. In October 2016, Hurricane Matthew hit the south of the country, with devastating consequences, making a renewed and more robust approach to combatting cholera both more urgent and more complicated.

21. Questions about the source of the cholera outbreak arose very quickly. On 6 January 2011, 10 weeks after the outbreak, the Secretary-General appointed an independent panel of four experts with a mandate to investigate and seek to determine the source of the 2010 cholera outbreak. The panel presented their report on 3 May 2011 and stated that their "research findings indicate that the 2010 Haiti cholera outbreak was caused by bacteria introduced into Haiti as a result of human activity; more specifically by the contamination of the Meye Tributary System of the Artibonite River with a pathogenic strain of the current South Asian type *Vibrio cholerae*".[1] The panel concluded that the Haiti cholera outbreak was caused by a "confluence of circumstances" "and was not the fault of, or deliberate action of, a group or individual".[1] The panel also noted that the source of the cholera was of no relevance to controlling the outbreak.

22. In a follow-up article in 2013 published independently in a scientific journal by the panel members, the panel stated that "the exact source of introduction of

[1] Final report of the independent panel of experts on the cholera outbreak in Haiti (2011). Available from www.un.org/News/dh/infocus/haiti/UN-cholera-report-final.pdf.

cholera into Haiti will never be known with scientific certainty", however, "the preponderance of the evidence and the weight of the circumstantial evidence does lead to the conclusion that personnel associated with the Mirebalais MINUSTAH facility were the most likely source".[7]

23. The panel made seven recommendations to the United Nations, the Government of Haiti and the international community to help in preventing the future introduction and spread of cholera. Of those recommendations applicable to the United Nations, all were accepted and acted on, with the exception of two (an expert group of the Pan American Health Organization and WHO advised against prophylactic antibiotics on scientific and medical grounds). The recommendations were: (a) ensure that all United Nations personnel travelling from cholera endemic area receive a prophylactic dose of appropriate antibiotics and/or are screened for cholera; (b) all United Nations personnel travelling to emergencies with concurrent cholera epidemics should receive prophylactic antibiotics and/or be immunized or both; (c) waste management at United Nations installations using on-site systems should be improved; (d) United Nations agencies should take specific actions to decrease cholera fatality rates; (e) the United Nations and the Government of Haiti should prioritize improved access to water and sanitation; (f) the international community should investigate the potential for using vaccines reactively after an outbreak; and (g) the surveillance, detection and tracking of cholera and other diseases should be improved.

24. Many steps have been taken to reduce risk and address performance on wastewater management in peacekeeping missions, including the use of systems contracts that have enabled missions to procure appropriate equipment for treating wastewater; the introduction of mandatory cholera vaccinations for uniformed personnel by troop- and police-contributing countries; and the development of a stronger policy framework to govern environmental management. Audits of waste management in seven missions in 2014 and 2015 highlighted challenges in several areas. By October 2016, all 27 "important" audit recommendations and all 12 "critical" audit recommendations had been implemented on the ground and formally closed by the auditors. Challenges remain, and on 29 November 2016, the Department of Field Support announced a new six-year strategy to improve environmental management.

III. The new United Nations approach: guiding principles

25. The intensification of efforts to eliminate cholera from Haiti is widely acknowledged, in particular by Haitians themselves, as the most important contribution the United Nations can make to supporting Haiti. The other pressing priority for the Organization is to respond to the devastation caused by Hurricane Matthew. The Secretary-General is of the view that all other measures cannot be at the expense of those two overriding priorities.

[7] Daniele Lantagne, G. Balakrish Nair, Claudio F. Lanata and Alejandro Cravioto, "The Cholera Outbreak in Haiti: where and how did it begin?", Current Topics in Microbiology and Immunology, Vol. 379, pp. 145–164 (Berlin, Springer, 2013).

26. The work undertaken under the new approach will be guided by a number of principles. First, all those engaged in the effort should exercise extreme care to ensure that the people of Haiti, who have already suffered so much, are not further harmed by the effort. Second, six central tenets will guide the United Nations implementation of the new approach: (a) act as quickly as possible; (b) consult with Haitian authorities, individuals and communities in developing the package of material assistance and support; (c) commit to and ensure impartiality, non-discrimination, fairness and transparency in the approach; (d) ensure gender-sensitivity; (e) put victims at the centre of the work and be responsive to their needs and concerns; and (f) reinforce government leadership in cholera elimination and response. The new approach will also reflect fundamental principles for project funding more generally, including: (a) cost-effectiveness, efficiency and practicability in the implementation process; (b) accountability for the use of funds; and (c) the sustainability of measures taken under the new approach. Third, coordination will be required between Tracks 1 and 2, as well as with other United Nations and humanitarian and development programmes. It would be expected that the United Nations Resident Coordinator would play a leading role in that regard. Delivering on the new approach will require actors from across the United Nations system as well as key partners. Great care must be taken under the new approach to avoid harm or unintended, negative consequences.

IV. Track 1: eliminating cholera from Haiti

27. Haitian interlocutors are unanimous in calling for more robust international efforts to eliminate the disease. Track 1 of the Organization's new approach is therefore to intensify the immediate efforts to decrease the transmission of cholera and improve access to care and treatment (Track 1A); and address the longer-term issues of access to clean water, sanitation and health-care systems (Track 1B). These intensified efforts will require some time to take effect. Track 1A, guided by the national priorities for eliminating cholera, will shadow the Government's medium-term plan until the end of 2018 and be reassessed at that time with a view to extension in line with the longer-term National Plan, which covers the period until 2022. The need for further Track 1A action will depend on the progress of efforts towards eliminating cholera. The longer-term Track 1B, which will occur in parallel, is expected to last for a period of 10 to 15 years.

28. Tracks 1A and 1B are not entirely new activities. Concerted national and international efforts have been under way since the outbreak began. The number of suspected cases remains high, however, and recent outbreaks — in particular as a consequence of the hurricane — show the continued vulnerability of the population to the disease. There is a direct correlation between strong, well-funded efforts and successful disease management. A 2016 spike in cases prior to the hurricane can be attributed in large part to a reduction in the number of rapid response teams, which was due to lack of resources, combined with a period of heavy and early rainfall in May.

29. The last six years have also provided clear lessons on what works. Preparation is essential, as cholera outbreak management is complex. It calls for several elements to be in place at the same time: people mobilized with information and

basic requirements for prevention, surveillance for suspected cases, notification, coordinated and well-resourced rapid response mechanisms in communities, clinical care, a cordon sanitaire (investigation, hygiene sensitization, immediate rehydration, house disinfection and household water treatment and storage), the chlorination of water supplies, and the management of potentially infectious solid waste (sanitation).

30. The new approach under Track 1 is aimed at intensifying such efforts by mobilizing adequate funding for an increased number of rapid response teams; strengthened epidemiological surveillance; the rapid detection, reporting and treatment of cases; the combined use of cholera vaccinations with targeted water and sanitation interventions; more focused geographical targeting; improved communication and behavioural change strategies; and strengthened support to longer-term water and sanitation services.

31. For the past six years, both the immediate response and longer-term efforts have been severely hampered by funding shortages often imposed by short-term funding horizons, which have made it impossible to fully treat or eliminate what is generally a treatable and preventable disease. To date, the United Nations response activities have been primarily funded by humanitarian mechanisms. A fully resourced cholera response for the period 2016-2018 would enable activities to move reliably beyond short-term, one-year horizons to support the Haitian Government's medium-term plan (for July 2016-December 2018) as a start, and then, beyond that, until the elimination of cholera is achieved. The shift to more reliable funding horizons would also enable a more successful transition from humanitarian-oriented interventions to more development-oriented programmes. The hurricane has complicated the immediate financial picture and proved revealing with respect to what funding might be available to support Haiti under the new approach. With the humanitarian flash appeal, which was recently revised to more accurately reflect humanitarian needs, only partially funded, a sobering reality presents itself. Cholera can be controlled and eliminated with sufficient funds. The United Nations new approach can only work with adequate resources.

32. Lives will be saved through rapid response and the treatment of new cases. The number of rapid response teams has been increased to 88 to ensure sufficient coverage and improved response times. Rapid detection and reporting of cases provides the bedrock of the cholera response and has proved to be one of the most important elements of the fight against Ebola.

33. The innovative and large-scale use of oral vaccines, together with water and sanitation interventions at the community and household level, hold great promise for cholera control. Work is already under way to provide oral vaccinations against cholera to people in areas with the highest cholera burden. WHO sent 1 million oral cholera vaccine doses to Haiti at the request of the Government of Haiti and on the recommendation of the international working group on oral cholera vaccination of the Global Task Force on Cholera Control, with the top priority going to those affected by Hurricane Matthew, in response to a spike in cholera as a result of the hurricane. On 8 November 2016, a campaign began for people living in the departments of Sud and Grand-Anse, the areas most affected by the hurricane. The vaccination programme will be subject to regular evaluation, requires additional

funding and partnerships and will provide important evidence for cholera control worldwide. Some 1.2 million people have now been vaccinated in the country.

34. A key element in cholera control is listening to at-risk populations regarding the challenges they face. These include access to and improved use of sanitation facilities in markets and transport hubs and greater attention to sanitary practices within cultural practices, such as respect for and treatment of the deceased.

35. The persistence of cholera in Haiti is due primarily to underlying infrastructural causes: the lack of household access to clean water and appropriate sanitation facilities. Therefore, in addition to intensified near-term response measures to treat and limit the spread of the disease, the United Nations system will redouble its efforts to support the Haitian Government in building a wet water, sanitation and health systems, which constitutes the best long-term defence against cholera and other water-borne diseases. A longer-term objective within Track 1 is thus to ensure that all Haitians are able to access adequate supplies of clean water and functioning sanitation for better health (Track 1B). Work is under way for the establishment by early 2017 of a multi-actor consortium, with the participation of the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank and other public and private leaders in the water and sanitation sector, that will seek to achieve access to water and sanitation for all Haitians. The public-private consortium will commit itself to water and sanitation investment and innovative financing over a period of 10 to 15 years and will prioritize Haitian ownership of the sector.

V. Track 2: providing a package of material assistance and support

36. Track 2 is intended to reflect the Organization's recognition and acknowledgement of the suffering of the people of Haiti due to the cholera outbreak and its commitment to assist and support those most directly affected. It is aimed at providing a meaningful — but necessarily imperfect — response to the impact of cholera on individuals, families and communities.

37. The Secretary-General has pledged to consult with victims and their families and communities in developing that package. It is anticipated that the related consultations will take place once the electoral process in Haiti is completed. Securing funding adequate to enable the development of a meaningful package is essential to ensuring that the consultations are properly informed and useful and to avoiding raising expectations. To engage in consultations, and thereby raise expectations, without any assurance of funding for Track 2 would be counterproductive and ethically fraught.

38. To date, preliminary consultations have been held in both New York and Haiti with the United Nations country team, experts (both inside the Organization and outside it), human rights and advocacy groups and networks, non-governmental organizations, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Haitian Government and other Member States. In addition, information has been gathered with respect to the impact of cholera in Haiti, the systems established to record infections and deaths, and the records and data that might be available, in order to consider and assess the feasibility of potential elements of the package.

39. Consideration of the possible parameters and elements of the package has taken into account the following factors: prospective beneficiaries; the types of potential benefits; estimated resource requirements; and implementation capacity on the ground.

40. The prospective beneficiaries of the package have been identified as the communities most directly affected by cholera, including the families of those individuals who died of cholera and those who contracted cholera and recovered.

41. Consideration is being given to two possible elements to the design of the package of material assistance and support: (a) a community approach; and (b) an individual approach. Each possible element is described below.

A. Community approach

42. Under a community approach, victims and their families and affected communities would receive assistance and support through community projects and initiatives focused on addressing and alleviating the suffering caused by cholera at the community level and strengthening community capacity to address proactively and sustainably the conditions that increase cholera risk; in particular, poverty, poor housing conditions and lack of basic services, and awareness of hygiene and public health.

43. Very importantly, the projects would be based on priorities established in consultation with communities and reflect, to the extent possible, buy-in and ownership by those communities, to ensure sustainability. To the degree appropriate, and consistent with consultations with the communities, these community projects and initiatives would be linked to and coordinated with Track 1, and with ongoing humanitarian and development work. Based on the preliminary consultations, communities might be interested in particular in projects and initiatives related to education, health care (including the equipping of health-care centres), financial services and cholera elimination at the community level (including measures to improve water filtration systems and local level sewage). Such projects and initiatives could include non-monetary in-kind individual benefits, such as education scholarships, access to adult literacy and education services, access to vocational training, micro-finance and support to small businesses.

44. Other types of projects and initiatives might include the provision of basic services (such as spring catchments, the construction, extension and rehabilitation of water adduction systems, the delimitation and protection of upstream water areas, household and public rain-fed water cisterns, the construction of public latrines and community-based solid waste management solutions), micro-hydropower infrastructures, community infrastructure (such as rural roads, sports and cultural facilities, local markets and the like), small urban infrastructure (such as street pavement, lighting, sidewalks and foot bridges), housing, access to livelihood projects, environmental rehabilitation and disaster risk reduction (such as the clearing of river beds, strengthening of the beds and banks of flood-prone rivers, construction works to conserve water and the soil, and groves of trees), small irrigation networks and other commonly owned agricultural infrastructure, and other projects and initiatives associated with community development plans. They could

also include projects or initiatives aimed at remembering or commemorating the victims of cholera, or other projects or initiatives proposed by the community.

45. Options for projects and initiatives would be established following consultations in the affected communities with victims and their representatives, community leaders, the Haitian authorities, civil society, local non-governmental organizations and possible implementing partners in order to determine the types of projects and initiatives that would be considered most beneficial.

46. The projects and initiatives would be structured to ensure the inclusion of women and vulnerable or marginalized groups within the community, in particular those stigmatized by cholera. Implementation would be designed to promote the engagement and participation of local communities, the recruitment of local labour and investments and purchases at the local level. It is foreseen that initiatives related to small community infrastructure projects could be implemented using cash-for-work programmes that would provide short-term employment opportunities in the communities.

47. All community projects and initiatives would be subject to financial limits, which would be established taking into account available resources. Since all departments in Haiti have been affected by cholera, communities would be prioritized based on the extent to which they have been affected by the disease in terms of cholera incidence, mortality rates and absolute numbers of deaths to date.

48. All approved projects and initiatives would be designed, implemented and monitored while drawing on the extensive experience and expertise of United Nations agencies and implementing partners in community-based development projects in Haiti. Such an approach is in line with the commitment of Member States and the United Nations to work together to ensure that the voices of the most vulnerable — those most affected by cholera in Haiti — are heard and included in the design of the proposed community-based projects, as enshrined in the Grand Bargain on humanitarian financing. Such a community-based project approach will ensure that projects are relevant, timely, effective and efficient and will help to create an environment of greater trust and transparency.

49. The proposal for the community-based approach will include assurances that an effective, transparent and monitored process for participation and feedback will be in place, and that design and management decisions are responsive to the views of affected communities and victims of cholera, even in the absence of an individual approach. Based on that participatory process, the design and implementation of projects could rely on multi-year, collaborative and flexible planning and multi-year funding instruments and will in turn enable documentation of the impact of the approach on programme efficiency and effectiveness, ensuring that implementing partners apply consistent funding arrangements and monitor and evaluate the outcomes of the response.

50. These community-based projects may require the strengthening of existing coordination mechanisms across humanitarian and development sectors to ensure a shared analysis of the needs that are highlighted by the participatory design process. In addition, given the parallel nature of Tracks 1 and 2, the implementation of each Track in parallel will increase the alignment and use of humanitarian and

development planning tools and funding and reduce the duplication of interventions, while still working towards collective outcomes.

51. This approach, importantly, recognizes that enhanced trust among Member States and the United Nations can be achieved by increasing accountability for delivering on the Grand Bargain commitments.

52. Community projects and initiatives would be implemented in close coordination with the Ministry of Planning and the Ministry for Interior Affairs and Territorial Communities and in close collaboration with the Ministry for Public Health and Population.

53. It is imperative to have an assurance of an adequate level of funding for community projects and initiatives prior to conducting consultations in the affected communities. Such funding must include resources for the identification of eligible communities and for community outreach and consultation and funding for the actual projects. To proceed in the absence of such assurance would create expectations that, if not met, would undermine the new approach by the United Nations and the spirit in which it has been made and further damage the reputation of the Organization.

B. Individual approach

54. Under an individual approach, one consideration has been the payment of money to the families of those individuals who died of cholera. If this approach were adopted, payment or cash transfer could take the form of a fixed amount per deceased individual that would be the same for each household, regardless of the number of family members in the household.

55. This approach would require an accurate estimate of the number of cholera deaths, identification of the deceased individuals and their family members, in order to identify potentially eligible households. It would also require the certainty of a threshold amount of funding sufficient to provide a meaningful fixed amount per cholera death. As set out above, according to figures from the Ministry for Public Health and Population, over 9,000 individuals may have died of cholera. Some observers believe that deaths from other causes with similar symptoms may have erroneously been noted as cholera deaths. Conversely, other observers believe, based on community surveys, that cholera deaths may have been greatly underrecorded.[1] The matter is further complicated by the fact that individuals continue to die from cholera in Haiti and from other water-borne diseases, especially in the aftermath of Hurricane Matthew.

[1] Francisco J. Luquero, Marc Rondy, Jacques Boncy, Andre Munger, Helmi Mekaoui, Ellen Rymshaw, Anne-Laure Page, Brahima Toure, Marie Amelie Degail, Sarala Nicolas, Francesco Grandesso, Maud Ginsbourger, Jonathan Polonsky, Kathryn P. Alberti, Mego Terzian, David Olson, Klaudia Porten and Iza Ciglenecki, "Mortality rates during cholera epidemic, Haiti, 2010-2011", *Emerging Infectious Diseases*, vol. 22, No. 3 (March 2016). Four retrospective community surveys conducted by Medecins sans frontieres to assess the extent of deaths during the first phase of the epidemic (mid-October 2010 through mid-April 2011) have suggested that the mortality rate was higher than that reported in the official statistics and that the number of cholera deaths may have been understated by a factor of three.

56. Following the outbreak of cholera in 2010, the Haitian health authorities established a national cholera surveillance system. Data was collected and reported to the Ministry for Public Health and Population by health authorities in the departments and communes. That statistical surveillance data was subsequently transmitted to and aggregated by the Ministry for Public Health and Population.[7] In addition to the surveillance system, a civil status registry was maintained by the Ministry of the Interior to record deaths.

57. The preliminary consultations suggest that the data have significant limitations for purposes of an individual approach. While the national cholera surveillance system became operational in late 2010 or early 2011, reporting in the early days of the cholera outbreak was not as complete or consistent as it is now. It is likely that deaths, particularly those outside of health-care facilities, were underreported. Moreover, given the stigma associated with cholera, some patients apparently did not give their real names or correct contact details, with the result that the identifying data may be unreliable. It is also understood that the civil status registry does not include all of the individuals who died of cholera. In short, in the event the records were made available by the Government of Haiti, they are unlikely to provide a comprehensive or accurate list of the numbers of individuals who died of cholera, their names and the names and contact details for their families.

58. The mechanisms by which the data limitations might be addressed would require further consideration and elaboration. The mechanisms might include community mapping, registration and verification exercises to identify those who died of cholera and their households.

59. An individual approach would require further consideration, including through consultations on the ground with victims and their communities, while recognizing the significant challenges, risks and constraints.

VI. Way forward and timeline

60. Track 1A is anticipated to come to an end on 31 December 2018 and will be re-evaluated at that time. With respect to Track 2, it is contemplated that all approvals would be issued within two years of the effective commencement of Track 2, although some aspects of the implementation might extend beyond that date.

61. The United Nations Haiti Cholera Response Multi-Partner Trust Fund has been established to provide a rapid, flexible and accountable platform to support a coordinated response, addressing both immediate and long-term needs, from the United Nations system and partners, with the ultimate aim of eliminating cholera from Haiti and enhancing Haitian resilience. The Fund has the ability to receive donations from Governments, non-governmental organizations and private donors and to disburse to local actors as well as to the United Nations and international non-governmental organizations, with appropriate financial transparency and oversight. The Government of Haiti, represented by the Permanent Representative of Haiti to the United Nations in New York, will join the advisory committee that supports the Fund as an observer.

62. It is anticipated that funding for Track 1A will be channelled through the Trust Fund to the greatest extent possible, to ensure more predictable, transparent funding for a more robust response. As stated above, funding modalities for Track 1B remain to be worked out in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

63. The consensus view expressed during the preliminary consultations is that the two overriding priorities for Haiti are to eliminate cholera and respond to the devastating effects of Hurricane Matthew. The United Nations new approach, outlined in the present report, is premised on the assumption that sufficient additional voluntary funding will be made available to deliver on Track 2 without detracting from Track 1. However, the possibility that the Secretary-General may need to propose a multi-funded approach cannot be excluded.

VII. Reporting

64. It is proposed that the Secretary-General will present further reports to the General Assembly on the development of the new approach, including the feasibility, costs and risks of including an individual approach as an element of Track 2, and information with respect to consultations with the Government of Haiti and victims and communities in Haiti.

VIII. Action requested of the General Assembly

65. The Secretary-General requests the General Assembly to take note of the present report.